





# Smith dodges split on PR and Labour's trade union links

By Jill Sherman and Philip Bassett

JOHN Smith, the Labour leader, yesterday promised a referendum on proportional representation as he tried to head off internal splits on electoral reform and Labour's links with the trade unions.

Mr Smith put forward a compromise plan to reform union links by cutting the membership fee, with reduced rates for union levy payers, as a way of boosting recruitment.

Mr Smith also pledged that a Labour government would hold a referendum on electoral reform while making clear that he was not yet convinced that change was necessary. He did not accept the recommendation by the Plant Committee for a limited form of PR, the supplementary vote, although

he called for a full debate on the report, which will now go out for consultation.

Mr Smith's smart footwork on both fronts was last night welcomed by both modernisers and traditionalists. PR campaigners claimed that the door was still open for reform, while trade unionists accepted Mr Smith's plan on membership as the best deal they would get for keeping a link with the party.

Mr Smith had been heading for a confrontation with union leaders and probable defeat at the party conference this September over his plans to introduce one member, one vote (OMOV) for selection of parliamentary candidates.

Yesterday, Mr Smith stood

by his plan for OMOV "as the guiding principle of our party democracy". However, in a statement to Labour's national executive committee (NEC), he offered a way out for the unions by calling for a mass membership drive based on a lower party subscription.

The Labour leader further suggested altering the rule that prevent new members from voting for the selection of parliamentary candidates for 12 months so that they could take part in next year's selection procedures.

He also proposed that union members who paid the political levy should be offered full party membership at a reduced rate under a "levy plus" system. "I am anxious to see many more trade unionists actively involved in the decisions of the party," he said.

All members would have the same right in regard to selection of candidates and any issues on which the membership voted, Mr Smith said. The changes would enhance union participation in a way that was consistent with, and extended, the principle of one member, one vote.

With Labour membership at a post-war low of 253,000, reformers such as Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have been leading the campaign for a mass membership. However, Mr Smith's plan to reduce the membership fee from £18 to £9 is a high-risk strategy when the party is in such financial difficulties.

The main unions yesterday reluctantly accepted the compromise, reducing the chance of confrontation in September. The compromise, which is expected to be supported by the NEC and put to conference in September, was said to be the result of a deal worked out privately between Labour and union leaders.

The plan was endorsed at a meeting yesterday morning of six unions, including the Transport and General and the GMB unions, who have been most antagonistic, before it was put to the national executive committee.

While the trade unions reaffirmed their opposition to one member one vote, they made clear that they would support the "levy plus" scheme, which allows them to maintain their involvement in the selection of the party leader and parliamentary candidates — but on an individual basis.

John Biffen, page 18

## Tories condemn secret donations

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

SECRECY surrounding donations to Conservative Party members was roundly condemned by an influential group of party members yesterday.

With Conservative Central Office's overdraft alleged to total £19 million, the reforming Charter Movement accused Sir Norman Fowler, party chairman, of being "economical with the truth" over the state of funds.

The censure comes as Sir Norman and the party treasurer Tim Smith prepare to be questioned by the Commons home affairs committee on Conservative finances. As part of the committee's enquiry into party funding, MPs are expected to ask next month about their rules and checks on beneficiaries, such as the discredited tycoon Asil Nadir.

Party officials have agreed to publish a balance sheet for the first time in the autumn. However, it will not divulge names of individual donors.

In a damning indictment on the party headquarters, the Charter Movement continued its long campaign for accountability.

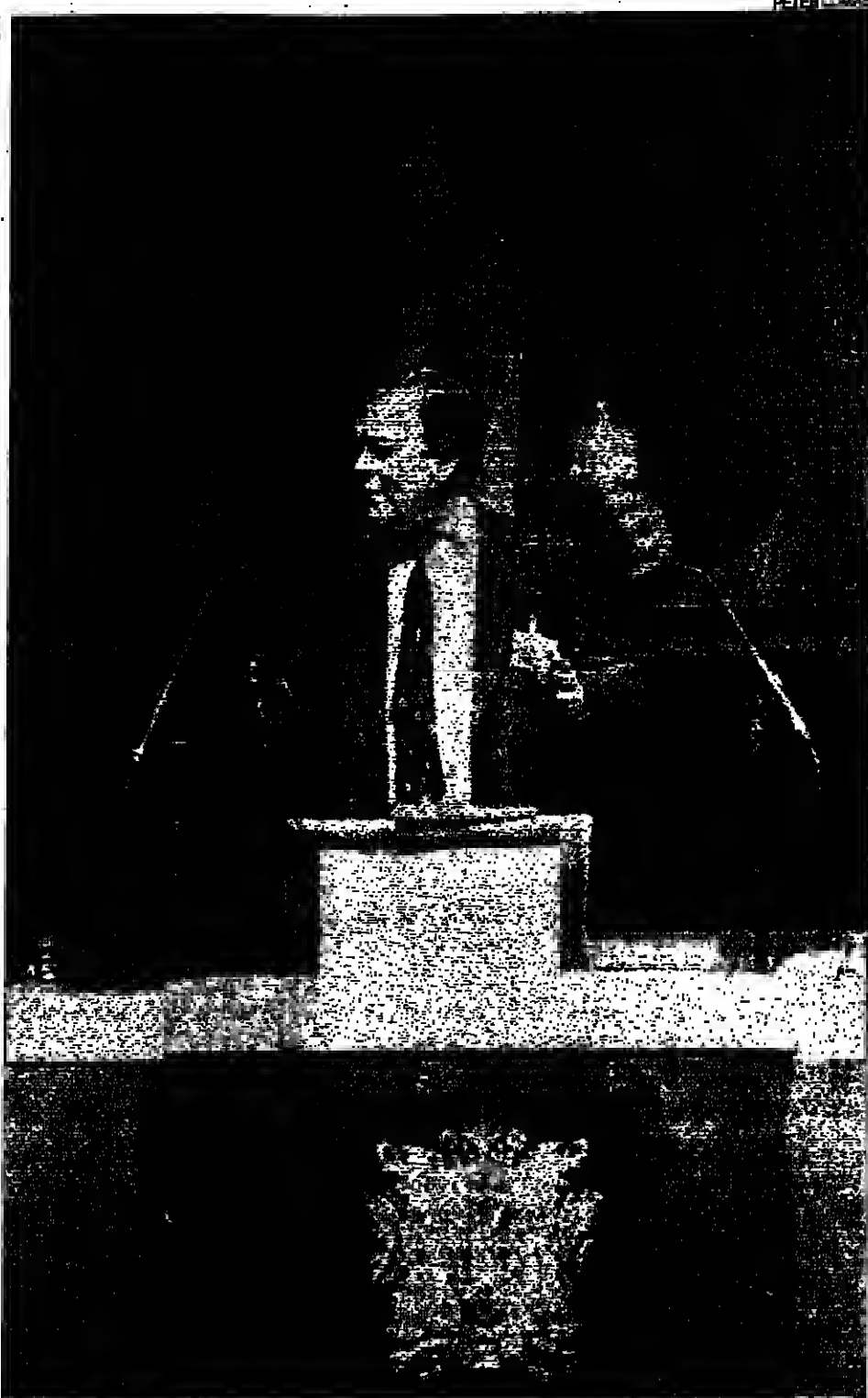
"The Conservative party should not be financed from abroad," Charter said. "It

should not be financed by or on behalf of foreign governments. It should not be financed by those who have no vote in the UK elections. "It should not be financed in a furtive way. It should not be financed by excessively large donations or loans from those who are not prepared to be publicly identified. It should not be financed without proper accounts to its members, for its income, its expenditure and its reserves (or its debts)."

The movement adds that it could not be right for members of the governing political party to have less extensive rights than those given to trade unionists by Conservative governments.

Despite the state of party funds, the movement says, "nobody has been held responsible, nobody has said sorry and most of the professionals who used to be in charge are still in charge".

It accuses officials of pretending for years that the growing overdraft was not a serious matter, and says: "Sometimes they refuse to admit that Central Office is in debt at all while, at the same time, refusing to explain how — with accumulated deficits of some £20 million — this could possibly be so."



Larger than life: Mr Clarke addresses the Police Federation conference yesterday

## Police hecklers mock Clarke

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

HECKLING and derisive laughter greeted Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, yesterday as he defended his plans for police and criminal justice reforms to the annual conference of the Police Federation.

Mr Clarke drew loud laughter when he said he did not know in advance the recommendations of the Sheehy enquiry into police pay and conditions. There were shouts from the audience when he outlined plans to change police discipline rules and heeding when he defended his policy of not giving the police new types of batons.

The conference, at Blackpool, had earlier voted to press

for wider issue of firearms if better training and defensive weapons were not given to police but the home secretary urged officers not to be seduced into supporting weapons that were unacceptable, such as the side-armed baton.

Mr Clarke had been expected to offer trials for the batons, which are now being widely supported within the police. The home secretary stood his ground and did not change his mind.

After a largely conciliatory speech to the federation, representing 120,000 junior ranks, Mr Clarke said that he had received worse jeering from nurses when he was health minister. Alluding to the con-

ment on Tuesday by Michael Bennett, chairman of the London branch of the federation, that he was a rude, arrogant snob and that putting him in charge of policing was like giving Mothercare to King Herod.

Mr Clarke said the joke was not even original and that it was the first time he had been called a snob.

In his speech Mr Clarke said that the public and the police did not want the police service to fossilise. His plans were not aimed at reforming policemen and women but the structure in which they worked.

Leading article, page 19

## MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

### Mr Sainsbury goes swashbuckling

Harry Greenway (C, Ealing N) asked industry minister Tim Sainsbury yesterday whether he could "particularly encourage small businesses" and Mr Sainsbury replied that the government did all it could.

In this he was surely correct. No government in history has created more small businesses: British Coal, British Steel, British Shipbuilding.

But perhaps that was not what the minister meant. He was in swashbuckling mood yesterday — swashbuckling, that is, for a minister who has become a by-word at Westminster for cautious urbanity.

Mr Sainsbury reminds us of the kind of under-manager you encounter at high-class supermarkets: the chap who would walk briskly over to the check-out counter when the assistant had rung her bell for advice on the price of oranges or the upper limit on payments by Access.

Harry Cohen (Lab, Leyton) had complained to him about rising commodity prices.

Mr Sainsbury saw no evidence of this in food retailing. "For instance," he said, "one of our leading — indeed, Madam Speaker, I think I can say the leading supermarket..."

The rest was drowned in laughter. It was a rare moment for this minister usually steeped in supermarket jokes.

Madam Speaker decided to add to it. "Mr Budget" she called, to the Tory MP from Wolverhampton. More giggles.

Had there been a Kevin Kwikave on the Labour benches, this would have been his moment. Mercifully, there were no mace jokes, and the late Marcus Lipton MP is no longer with us.

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, was not entirely with us, either. Staring into space, he left most of the questions to his juniors to handle.

But he did rise to reply to Michael Fabricant (C, Mid Staffs) who had asked what plans he had to discuss

trade with his Russian counterparts. Mr Heseltine focused momentarily on the question. Russia. Ah yes. "I recently met the Russian deputy prime minister, Mr Shokin."

It sounded like Shocking, anyway. But Mr Fabricant decided to dazzle us with linguistics. What were the long-term and what the short-term benefits from bilateral trade, and meetings with people like "Alexander Nicolaivich Sogghokkeen"?

Mr Heseltine just gaped. Aware he was supposed to answer, and having forgotten — stunned by Mr Fabricant's verbal gymnastics — to take note of his question, the President of the Board of Trade confessed he had missed his own friend's drift.

Miss Boothroyd told Mr Fabricant to try again. He repeated the question — a triumphant "Sogghokkeen". Again the president was thrown. "I am impressed with my hon friend's ability — and articulation!" he gasped, then (floundering): "and he is, er, very right to, er, ask the House this, er question. Er."

Maybe somebody whispered "long and short-term benefits, president" to Mr Heseltine: "er, and there are, er, benefits, in the long and the short term!" he declared, to a beaming Mr Fabricant.

Later, MPs thrilled to the first by-election Cuckoo this spring. David Rendel (Lib-Dem, Newbury) made his maiden speech. It was polished and graceful.

Mr Rendel, a tall, trim Etonian with the sort of 1950s good looks which might have secured him part-time work modelling sweaters for knitting patterns in *The Lady*, speaks with the clipped bonhomie of a *Pathe* newsreader. "Let us join on all sides," he cried, "to save our village post offices!"

Congratulating him in the speech that followed, Michael Brown (C, Brigg & Cleethorpes) implied he would not be staying longer than the next election. On yesterday's showing, I'm not so sure.

## Survey detects rise in first-time buyers

First-time buyers and those who have been living in privately rented property are returning to the house purchase market, according to a survey published today by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Prices remained steady in March and April, according to 80 per cent of surveyors.

Peter Miller, a spokesman, warned against an "inflationary spiral" in prices. "Our earnest wish is for an active market, which enables properties to be bought and sold within a sensible period," he said. Recovery has yet to be noted in parts of the South East, the survey shows, blaming the "fear of redundancy, recession and negative equity".

## Flying instructor killed

A civilian flying instructor, Pat Bushby, 57, was killed when two single-engine aircraft collided during a training exercise at the Army Air Corps centre in Middle Wallop, Hampshire. Each Chippinuk was being flown by an instructor and a military trainee. The three survivors suffered shock and minor injuries.

## Tribute to bomb victim

More than 200 people attended a memorial service yesterday for Edward Henty, the *News of the World* photographer killed by an IRA bomb in the City of London last month. During the 45-minute service at St Bride's in Fleet Street, colleagues, friends and relatives heard tributes paid to the professionalism of Mr Henty, 34.

## Investors expected to put £1 bn in CrossRail

By Tim Jones, Transport Correspondent

PRIVATE investors will be expected to risk at least £1 billion if CrossRail, the biggest rail project to be undertaken in London this century, is to be built.

The government's determination to make the City carry most of the cost of the £1.8 billion project emerged yesterday following John Major's announcement that the bill authorising the project will receive its second reading next month.

Jubilant industrialists, who formed one of the most powerful lobbying groups ever seen in Britain, will be expected to sit down to some hard horse trading when they have overcome their euphoria.

John MacGregor, the transport secretary, was armed with a report from the merchant bank SG Warburg as he battled to overcome Treasury opposition to the scheme. The report outlines ways in which it could be funded.

Mr MacGregor is also likely also to have seen a private report commissioned by London Underground from

NatWest Markets, which also details how private-sector money could be raised. Both reports are understood to conclude that up to £1 billion could be raised from the private sector.

Warburg suggests that, as with rail privatisation, the track should be owned by Railtrack, the government-owned company, with the trains run by the highest-bidding franchise holders.

NatWest Markets are believed to have suggested forming a private company to be floated on the Stock Exchange. London Underground and British Rail would own 49 per cent of the stock, with the rest held by shareholders. British Rail was fined more than £54,000 by Bradford Crown Court yesterday as a result of a crash near Leeds in which two trains collided head-on, leaving 25 passengers injured. It admitted two charges under health and safety legislation of failing to ensure the safety of passengers and staff.

## Major sees ERM return far away

Continued from page 1  
reading on the Maastricht bill, the last vote before it goes to the Lords. With the government certain of victory because of Labour's decision to abstain, up to 45 Tory rebels may enjoy the luxury of a final fling against the bill. They are likely to be joined by up to 60 Labour MPs and members of the minority parties.

The hardliners are in no mood to surrender. Lord Tebbit said the bill could be amended in the Lords and accused ministers of using "deceit and threats" to get the Dames to accept the deal.

"That is very sad to me, because the Danish 'No' vote was the only way out for Mr Major. It was the only way in which the treaty could be defeated without him landing in a somewhat inelegant position. If the treaty is ratified, it will be Mr Major who will be blamed by the British people as the effects of the treaty become clear."

Politics lesson, page 10  
Danish violence, page 12  
Letters, page 19

## Times wins two press awards

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

TWO journalists from *The Times* were honoured yesterday in the British Press Awards for 1992. Simon Jenkins, former editor of *The Times*, was named columnist of the year; Anatole Kaletsky won the award for specialist writer.

The award of journalist of the year went to Maggie O'Kane of *The Guardian* for her work in former Yugoslavia. She was also jointly awarded the David Holden international reporter award with her colleague Ed Vulliamy.

"Maggie O'Kane combines powerful writing with great

humanity and communicates this with a freshness that has really set her apart this year," the judges said.

*The Guardian's* third honour — reporter of the year — went to David Hencke, Whitehall correspondent.

*The Observer* also received three awards: Hugh McIlvanney (sports journalist of the year); Alexander Fraser (Arthur Sandles award for travel and leisure writer of the year); and Allister Sparks (the David Bundy award).

The journalist and author Andrew Morton, whose controversial book on the Princess of Wales, *Diana: Her*

*True Story*, dominated the agenda of the press for much of last year, won one of the chairman's awards. The judges described his book as "the seminal work".

Other winners provincial journalist of the year: Steve Davies, *The Southampton Advertiser*; reporting team: *The Financial Times*; Maxwell investigation team led by Brownie Maddox; critic of the year: Allison Pearson, *The Independent on Sunday*; magazine writer of the year: Russell Miller, *The Sunday Times*; award: Andrew Malone, *Scotland on Sunday*; feature writer of the year: Lynda Lee-Pomeroy, *The Daily Mail*; chairman's award: Raymond Snoddy, *The Financial Times*.

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2. Only use proper barbecue starter fuel.
3. Never add starter fuel to a lit barbecue. Never use petrol, meths or other volatile liquids.

4. Keep all children, pets and any 'tipsy' adults well away.

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The Home of D.I.Y



THE TIMES THURSDAY MAY 20 1993

# Books and films keep the Guildford Four case alive

By RICHARD DUCE

MEMBERS of the Guildford Four remain determined that public interest will not fade in a case that for almost 20 years has been surrounded by controversy, emotion and expensive legal conflict.

Two of the four, Gerard Conlon and Paul Hill, wrote books about their experience, respectively *Proved Innocent* and *Stolen Years: Before and After Guildford*, once they were acquitted and many other books on the case have also been published.

As the verdicts were announced, Gerard Conlon was involved in work on a film, *In the Name of the Father*, about his life and that of his father Giuseppe, one of the Maguire Seven, who died before his conviction for involvement in a north London IRA bomb factory was quashed.

Interest in the case has proved attractive enough to lure the actor Daniel Day-Lewis to play the part of Mr Conlon and Emma Thompson to play the part of his solicitor, Gareth Peirce. It is the second film project for Peter Sheridan, director of the praised *My Left Foot*. Patrick Armstrong, the focus of the case against the three Surrey police officers, is now working as technical adviser on the film during location shooting in the Irish Republic and later in England.

Mr Hill is now something of a celebrity in New York where he is "unofficially engaged" to Courtney Kennedy, the daughter of Robert Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1968. Apart from the money he has made from his book, Mr Hill earns a living on the lecture circuit talking about justice.

All the Guildford Four have received interim compensa-

## Nearly 20 years after the Guildford pub bombings trial, Hollywood prepares to focus on the discredited convictions

tion payments of about £50,000 for wrongful imprisonment after their convictions were quashed. Further payments will hinge on the outcome of the enquiry by Sir John May into the cases of the Guildford Four and the Maguire Seven.

For much of the month-long case at the Central Criminal Court where the Guildford Four received their original life sentences, it was difficult to discern who was really on trial as hour after hour was spent

detailing Patrick Armstrong's confession evidence on terrorist involvement.

When the Guildford Four had their convictions quashed in 1989, Lord Lane, who was then Lord Chief Justice, was satisfied that the three policemen "must have lied" about their original evidence. Yet a simple truth for the jury had still to be established before the courts: had the three former Surrey police officers, in an attempt to build a watertight case against an

allegedly self-confessed IRA member, fabricated notes of his answers during interviews in December 1974? The jury found them not guilty.

The three police officers, all of whom were suspended on full pay when the Guildford Four convictions were quashed four years ago, still live in Surrey. All have retired from the force.

Thomas Style moved to a job with the defence ministry before retiring 18 months ago on health grounds. He is a chronic asthmatic. John Donaldson retired from the police 18 months ago, but did not take up other employment. Vernon Atwell, who retired 12 months ago, works for a security firm.

The May enquiry cannot be published until an appeal by Mr Hill, now 38, against his conviction for the murder of a former soldier in Belfast, has been heard. A royal commission is also due to report on legal reform after other miscarriages of justice, including that involving the Birmingham Six.

While Carole Richardson, who appears to have suffered the most emotional damage from 14 years in prison, married and sank into obscurity, the events surrounding her conviction continue to produce headlines.

In a recent interview with *The Irish Times*, Mr Sheridan said of his film: "I believe that Northern Ireland is a British problem. Their whole society seems to be organised to run the rest of the world, but does not seem to be able to cope with running their own place. And their own place is in chaos—the justice system is in chaos, which reflects what is happening in the rest of the country."



Paul Hill



Gerard Conlon



Carole Richardson



Patrick Armstrong

Legal storm, page 1

## Police defence team was 'remorseless'

By RICHARD DUCE

THE defence team representing the three officers, accused of fabricating evidence in the Guildford Four trial, were remorseless in their attempts to convince the jury that police caught the right IRA bombing team almost 20 years ago.

Patrick Armstrong, who was at the focus of the month-long trial, was said by the defence to have established links with terrorism and to have given police vital information about unsolved crimes in Northern Ireland.

Mr Armstrong "sang like a canary" about his IRA involvement, according to Edmund Lawson QC who, in a rare legal move, was allowed by Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny to present the defence case at the end of the prosecution opening.

Mr Anthony Evans QC, for John Donaldson, later told the jury: "The innocent Patrick Armstrong does not exist. He is being created by the ill informed, the misinformed and the not-want-to-be-informed."

While Mr Armstrong was the subject of courtroom character assassination during the apparent rerun of the original Guildford case, the defence was also at pains to point out that he had not made himself available for the trial of the three former detectives.

The court heard allegations that after Mr Armstrong was convicted of murder in the 1974 pub bombings he pro-

vided police with the names of ten IRA terrorists. He was also said to have admitted taking part in five IRA robberies in Belfast.

Gerard Conlon, another member of the Four, summoned police to his cell the day after he was jailed and later gave Sir Peter Imbert a "catalogue of names and information" about the IRA. The tape-recorded interview was not used in the Four's 1977 appeal because it was considered too prejudicial to the other three.

Anthony Glass QC, for Thomas Style, said in his final speech: "The Horse and Groom was the worst peace-time outrage since 1945. That bombing was carried out by Patrick Armstrong." He said the jury that convicted him in 1975 had "reached a just conclusion".

October 1974: Bombs explode at Guildford pubs. Five die. November 1974: Bomb explodes at Woolwich pub. Two die. December 1974: Guildford Four charged with the Guildford bombing. Armstrong charged in connection with Woolwich bomb. June 1978: Hill convicted of murdering former soldier in Belfast. October 1978: Guildford Four convicted. Life sentences. October 1978: Guildford Four refused leave to appeal. August 1987: Home secretary announces enquiry by Avon and Somerset police. January 1989: Case referred to Court of Appeal. October 1989: Appeal court frees Guildford Four after evidence that police "seriously misled" original trial. Sir John May enquiry announced. November 1989: DPP announces that three Surrey police officers charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. June 1991: Three officers discharged on grounds of delay in bringing case to trial and prejudicial media comment. January 1992: High Court rules that three officers must stand trial. April 1992: Old Bailey trial of officers opens.

## Victims' families praise acquittals

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

STILL grieving relatives of those slaughtered in the IRA pub bombings spoke of their delight at the acquittal of the three detectives.

The Horse & Groom in North Street, Guildford, where five young people died, now stands empty, but memories survive of the Saturday night there on October 5, 1974, that ended in carnage. Elizabeth Forsyth, 67, whose 18-year-old soldier son Billy died in the blast, wept as she watched television film of the outrage yesterday and said she remained haunted. "My son was killed by the IRA and I'd like to see the people responsible behind bars before I go to my grave. I'll never forget what happened. Every day I think of Billy and remember him in my prayers."

Billy was a fresh-faced Scots Guardsman enjoying a night out with other young soldiers and Wraes when the explosion tore through the Horse & Groom. His best friend, Guardsman John Hunter, 17, who grew up with him in the same Fife street and joined the Scots Guards on the same day, was also killed.

Mrs Forsyth said: "I still see John's mum from time to time, and like myself she can never forget. Billy was my youngest. I have another son and daughter who also remember, though their young lives have to go on."

Mrs Forsyth, who has two other children, added: "I've been following the case of the three officers and I'm just so pleased that they've been cleared. I think it was an injustice to bring them to court and I'm delighted for them."

Another of the victims, Caroline Slater, 17, had dreamed of becoming a Wrae and died only three weeks after achieving her ambition. At her home in Cannock, Staffordshire, Caroline's mother, Delphine Slater, said: "I am pleased with the verdict on the three officers. It was a long time ago that it all happened and we try to put it to the back of our minds. But it's still fresh."

The others who died were Pte Ann Hamilton, 18, from Crewe, and Paul Craig, from Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, the only civilian fatality, who was killed on his twenty-second birthday.

David Palmer and his wife Carol, his anaesthetist, admitted to the General Dental Council's professional conduct committee in London that equipment and drugs at their surgery in Mildenhall, Suffolk, were insufficient to save the life of Paul Beckett, 10.

But they denied taking inadequate steps to resuscitate the boy. They are accused of professional misconduct.

Mr Palmer said in a statement that he had agreed with Paul's father Derrick, a farmer from Isleham, Cambridgeshire, that Paul should have a general anaesthetic.

Rosalind Foster, counsel for the committee, said that Leonard Small, a retired health department expert who examined the dentist's equipment a week after the tragedy, found a catalogue of faults.

The hearing continues.



Head for heights: Rebecca had to acclimatise both to her oxygen equipment and the extreme conditions

## Everest heroine's tip: 'Don't look down'

By NICHOLAS WATT

CLIMBING Everest requires more than a head for heights. Rebecca Stephens, who on Monday became the first British woman to conquer the world's highest mountain, said yesterday.

Miss Stephens, speaking for the first time about her achievement, said: "The thing about Everest is that it is not really a technical climb—at least the route we took is not particularly technical. All you need really is endurance and a head for heights."

In an interview with *The Times* from the relative comfort of the expedition base camp at 17,500ft, Miss Stephens, 31, said that stubbornness had kept her going when she was tempted to give up. "I set my heart on reaching the summit." But as

had weather closed in on Sunday night, she thought her chance of success as part of the DHL Everest fortieth anniversary expedition was remote.

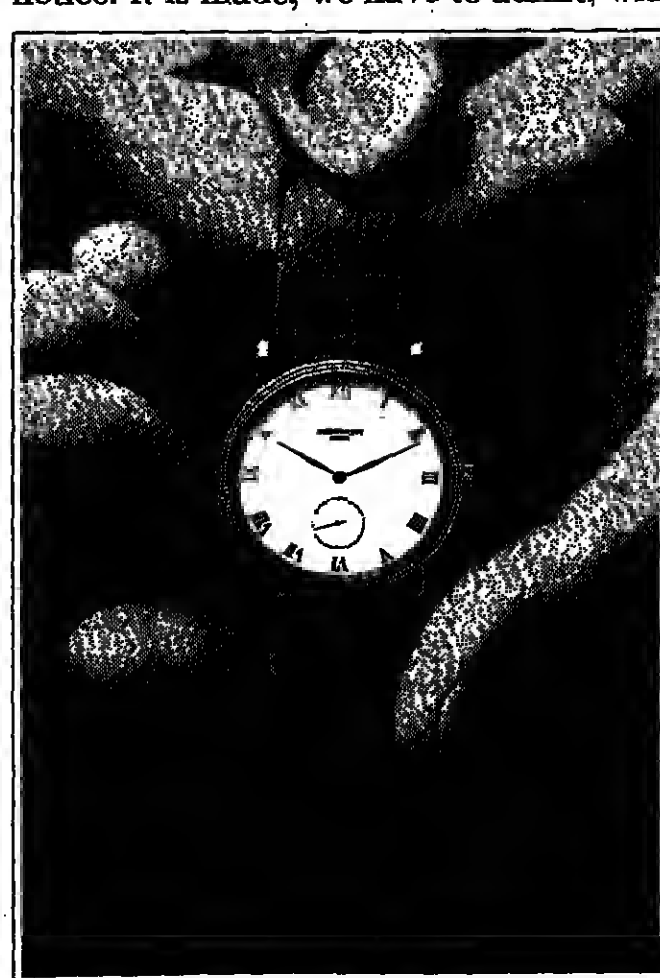
One of the most frightening moments came while tackling the knife-edge ridge which leads to the summit. "I had been warned about the ridge but it was still a bit of a surprise when I actually saw it," she said. "I looked down, saw how tiny everything looked and then chose not to look down again."

Three publishers have bid for the rights to a book, which is said to be worth £50,000. Miss Stephens sacrificed her job as deputy editor of *Resident Abroad*, a *Financial Times* magazine, to go on the expedition.



Goal in sight: "I set my heart on the summit"

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## Cheltenham chaps surrender after a century of sanctuary

By ALAN HAMILTON

CHELTENHAM, that increasingly isolated redoubt of old-bufferdom, where sex is still what the coal is delivered in, is about to surrender another besieged enclave of tradition to the dark forces of modernity.

The still-tipped Gloucestershire town, which famously voted in a Liberal Democrat because the Tory candidate was black, is being forced to open the doors of its gentlemen's club to women.

Money is to blame, as it is for most ills that beset the declining trappings of a kinder English age. The town's Constitutional Club, which since its foundation in 1898 has admitted only gentlemen, is, in a word, bust. There are not enough gentlemen left, even in Cheltenham.

Arthur Negus, the late avuncular sage of *Antiques Roadshow*, whose most public display of affection for the fair sex was to run a senuous hand over the shapely legs of

a Hepplewhite escritoire, was a member, as were many MPs and priests. But Arthur is dead, and his like are in decline. From a peak of 200, membership has dwindled to 80. Eighty chaps don't make a viable club. The Constitutional is offering its premises for sale at £200,000, and is looking for a new home where, its management reluctantly admits, women will have to be admitted if there is to be any hope of achieving a viable membership roll.

There is a minority of members who are said to see the men-only preserve come to an end, but the majority realise that the way forward is to have mixed membership. Brian Barratt, the club secretary, said yesterday. "Men-only clubs have gone out of fashion."

Not in London they haven't. The Athenaeum and the Garrick will still not have women as members, although they are grudgingly permitted to

dine as guests in side rooms. The Reform admits women, which it would have to, really, being at least nominally reformed, and even the Cavalry and Guards has had to mend its ways, there being the occasional lady brigadier about these days.

In California, a group of litigious feminists won a court case gaining them admittance to the formerly all-male Pacific Club in San Francisco, on the grounds that its claim to be a private sanctuary was a load of old hokum, and that it was in fact extensively used for business meetings.

Another London club which does not open its doors fully to female members is the Travellers. After the achievements of Rebecca Stephens on the summit of Everest, they may yet be obliged to go the way of the Constitutional of Cheltenham.

Heroine's tip, page 3

## Boy, 10, died after dental anaesthetic

A SCHOOLBOY who was terrified of going to the dentist died after having a general anaesthetic in preparation for five extractions, an enquiry was told yesterday.

David Palmer and his wife Carol, his anaesthetist, admitted to the General Dental Council's professional conduct committee in London that equipment and drugs at their surgery in Mildenhall, Suffolk, were insufficient to save the life of Paul Beckett, 10.

But they denied taking inadequate steps to resuscitate the boy. They are accused of professional misconduct.

Mr Palmer said in a statement that he had agreed with Paul's father Derrick, a farmer from Isleham, Cambridgeshire, that Paul should have a general anaesthetic.

Rosalind Foster, counsel for the committee, said that Leonard Small, a retired health department expert who examined the dentist's equipment a week after the tragedy, found a catalogue of faults.

The hearing continues.



# QC backs decision to hold Allitt enquiry in secret

By LIN JENKINS

SIR Cecil Clothier QC yesterday defended the decision to take evidence in secret at his enquiry into the events surrounding the murders committed by nurse Beverly Allitt. He suggested that people often lied under oath.

His comments were immediately described as insensitive and ridiculous by parents of Allitt's victims, who want the enquiry to be held in public. "The parents have accused Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, of considering the wishes of the health authority above their own."

Sir Cecil, announcing the terms of reference of the enquiry at a press conference at the health department in Whitehall, said the exclusion of the role of Trent regional health authority in the affair could be rectified at a later stage if necessary.

Claims that Trent ignored a plea by medical staff to close the ward are included in the book *Murder on Ward Four*

by Nick Davis, to be published by Chatto and Windus later this month. "Possibly when I have read the book we might look into it," Sir Cecil said.

He said that his justification for secrecy was that the enquiry would get closer to the truth if witnesses did not feel repressed by public disclosure of their suspicions. "People have told the most monstrous lies under oath. If you really want to know what people are thinking in an extremely delicate matter, you need to see them in circumstances where they do not feel threatened."

Allitt, 24, has been convicted of murdering four children on ward four of Grantham and Kesteven General Hospital between February 15 and April 22, 1991, and of attempting to murder three others and harming six more. She had displayed the symptoms of Munchausen Syndrome before being given a contract. Sir Cecil said he would

consider taking evidence from Allitt, who is currently in Rampton hospital being treated for anorexia nervosa and awaiting sentence on May 28. "We would have to take medical advice for her own protection as well as for the protection of the enquiry."

Ann Alexander, solicitor for the families of eight of Allitt's 13 victims, said they were astonished by Sir Cecil's remarks. "Our whole criminal justice system is based on evidence being taken in public. The families are determined that justice should be seen to be done."

The parents of the twin girls who were two of Allitt's victims yesterday called for the two paediatricians from the children's ward to be reinstated.

Peter and Sue Phillips, whose nine-week-old daughter Becky was murdered and her twin Katie left severely brain damaged, said the doctors were being unfairly blamed for what happened.



Sir Cecil: "People have told the most monstrous lies under oath"

# Watchdog accuses BSkyB over screen violence

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SATELLITE television channels are showing too many films containing unjustifiable levels of violence and bad language, Lord Rees-Mogg, chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council, said yesterday.

Launching the council's first monitoring report on violence, sex and bad language, he singled out BSkyB for criticism, and urged the satellite channel to use again the services of the British Board of Film Classification, which gives advice on when films should be screened and where cuts should be made.

BSkyB, which has three subscription film channels, is 50 per cent owned by News Corporation, owners of *The Times* parent company News International. It stopped using the film classification board five months ago.

The council's report found that an average of 2 per cent of programmes broadcast by the two BBC channels and ITV and Channel 4 after the 9pm family viewing watershed caused offence. On satellite television the figure was up to 7 per cent. BSkyB operates an 8pm watershed.

The survey is based on detailed television diaries kept by a panel of 600 viewers, who were asked to report every time they saw what they felt were "unjustifiable" scenes of sex, violence and bad language over several weeks in 1991 and 1992.

Lord Rees-Mogg said that with levels of dissatisfaction on terrestrial television running from 1 per cent for pre-watershed viewing to just 2 per cent after the watershed, regulatory measures applied to terrestrial channels appeared to be working. He added, however, that concern about television standards was not restricted to highly vocal minorities. On average, every viewer found about one programme every fortnight too strong for their tastes.

A separate survey by the council analysed the content of 518 programmes broadcast over the same period, but excluding satellite and cable television. It found that bad

language caused most concern, with 1,991 instances recorded, followed by 883 violent acts and 143 sex scenes. It concluded that dramas and films account for 70 per cent of all unacceptable scenes.

Programmes produced in the United States, which account for roughly 13 per cent of all output on terrestrial TV, were four times more likely to contain violence and bad language.

Lord Rees-Mogg, who is due to step down as chairman of the council next week, singled out Hollywood productions such as Arnold Schwarzenegger's *Terminator* films for particular criticism. He accused them of celebrating violence.

Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, welcomed the report and said it provided independent confirmation that BSkyB television was lowering television standards in Britain, despite enormous strides made by terrestrial channels.

David Elstein, BSkyB head of programmes, said the survey was unrepresentative and unreliable. Screen violence was taken very seriously and in the past week BSkyB had devoted three hours of prime time to a debate on the issue, something no other broadcaster had done, he said.

Television, page 43



Rees-Mogg: urged use of classification board

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PHILIPS

# Lending a hand saves heart attack victims

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

HUNDREDS of lives can be saved if bystanders try to resuscitate people who suffer a heart attack, however untrained they are.

A pioneering campaign in Scotland has shown that resuscitation, doubles the chance of survival. The other key element in the campaign is equipping all ambulances with electric defibrillators and training crews to restore normal heart rhythm.

Of 1,700 people given resuscitation in the first full year of HeartStart Scotland, 174 survived. Without such help, Professor Stuart Cobbe of the University of Glasgow will tell the British Cardiac Society meeting this week, almost all of them would have died. A year later, 145 are still alive and only 2 per cent have suffered a severe disability as a result of their heart attack.

The campaign, supported by the British Heart Foundation, supplied all of Scotland's frontline ambulances with de-

fibrillators, machines that give the heart an electric shock. Crews were trained in their use, and also taught cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"Although a high percentage of those who collapse with cardiac arrest will die, these results show that many lives can be saved," Professor Cobbe said yesterday. "Getting assistance fast is the most important thing. When people who were having chest pain called the ambulance and it arrived before they actually had a heart attack, a full 40 per cent survived."

The results also show the value of resuscitation by family, work colleagues, or passers-by. When this is given, the chances of survival are doubled. "Anyone, anywhere, who sees somebody collapse and remain unresponsive should attempt resuscitation," Professor Cobbe urged.

Vitamin boost, page 1  
Body and Mind, page 15

# Scan may cut effect of strokes

By OUR TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE amount of debilitating brain damage from a stroke, car accident or fight may be significantly reduced by a scanning technique developed by British scientists.

Researchers have devised a way of rapidly identifying the location and levels of a naturally produced substance that poisons brain cells after an accident or stroke. It enables patients to be given drugs that can counteract the poison, called glutamate, and cut the amount of brain cells killed.

Dr Jonathan Owens, a research fellow with Glasgow University's brain imaging group, whose work is described in the annual report of the Radiological Research Trust of London, said yesterday that glutamate poisoning could account for up to 70 per cent of brain damage.

Traditional scanning techniques only pick up cells after they have been killed but the new technique can act before much of the irreversible damage has been done.

# Cannabis killed pain in AD 400

By NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

PROOF that cannabis was used as a painkiller in ancient times has been made by scientists studying the remains of a girl who died nearly 1,600 years ago.

Her skeleton, discovered in a tomb near Jerusalem, was found to have traces of a burnt powder in the abdominal area. A chemical analysis by scientists from an Israeli police laboratory, the Hebrew University and the Israel Antiquities Authority identified traces of a substance that is a stable part of cannabis formed after burning.

Researchers believe the drug was given to relieve the pain of childbirth. The skeleton contained the remains of a foetus and measurements of the 14-year-old girl's pelvis showed it was too small for childbirth. She would have died from internal bleeding.

Ashes in the tomb are assumed to be cannabis, administered as an inhalant, the scientists report in *Nature*.

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Television, 122-13

## Unions angry after earlier assurances

# Receivers to detail shipyard job losses

By PAUL WILKINSON

REDUNDANCIES among the 2,200 workforce at the shipbuilder Swan Hunter could be declared as early as tomorrow, the company's receivers said yesterday.

The announcement by Price Waterhouse brought an angry reaction from union leaders at the Tyneside yard, who said they had only just been given assurances that the workers' jobs were safe at least until the end of next week.

Tom Brennan, chairman of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) at Swan's, said he was particularly shocked that the news had been released at a press conference by Gordon Horsfield, the senior Price Waterhouse partner at the yard.

Later, a spokesman for Mr Horsfield confirmed assurances given to the unions that no one would be sacked before May 28. But he said that details of impending redundancies could be given to officials when they meet the receivers tomorrow.

Eddie Darke, CSEU secretary, said: "We have always accepted that redundancies would be inevitable, but we could have been given better notice than this. It is very bad

■ An agreement with the MoD allows work to continue at Wallsend, but the threat of redundancies is more immediate

that families of shipyard workers heard the news over the radio or TV."

Mr Horsfield declined to say what numbers were under consideration and pointed out that the company had itself been drawing up redundancy options before it called in the receivers.

He said he was more confident about the company's situation now than he had been when he arrived six days ago. The Ministry of Defence had agreed to work continuing on three type 23 frigates at the yard until May 28 and the receivers were now studying up to 20 "serious expressions of interest" from potential purchasers of the company.

As a result of their agreement with the ministry, sea trials of the first of the frigates, HMS Westminster, postponed from last Friday, will go ahead this weekend.

Mr Horsfield said: "Our discussions with the MoD are continuing. There are representatives from the ministry at the yard today. So far, they

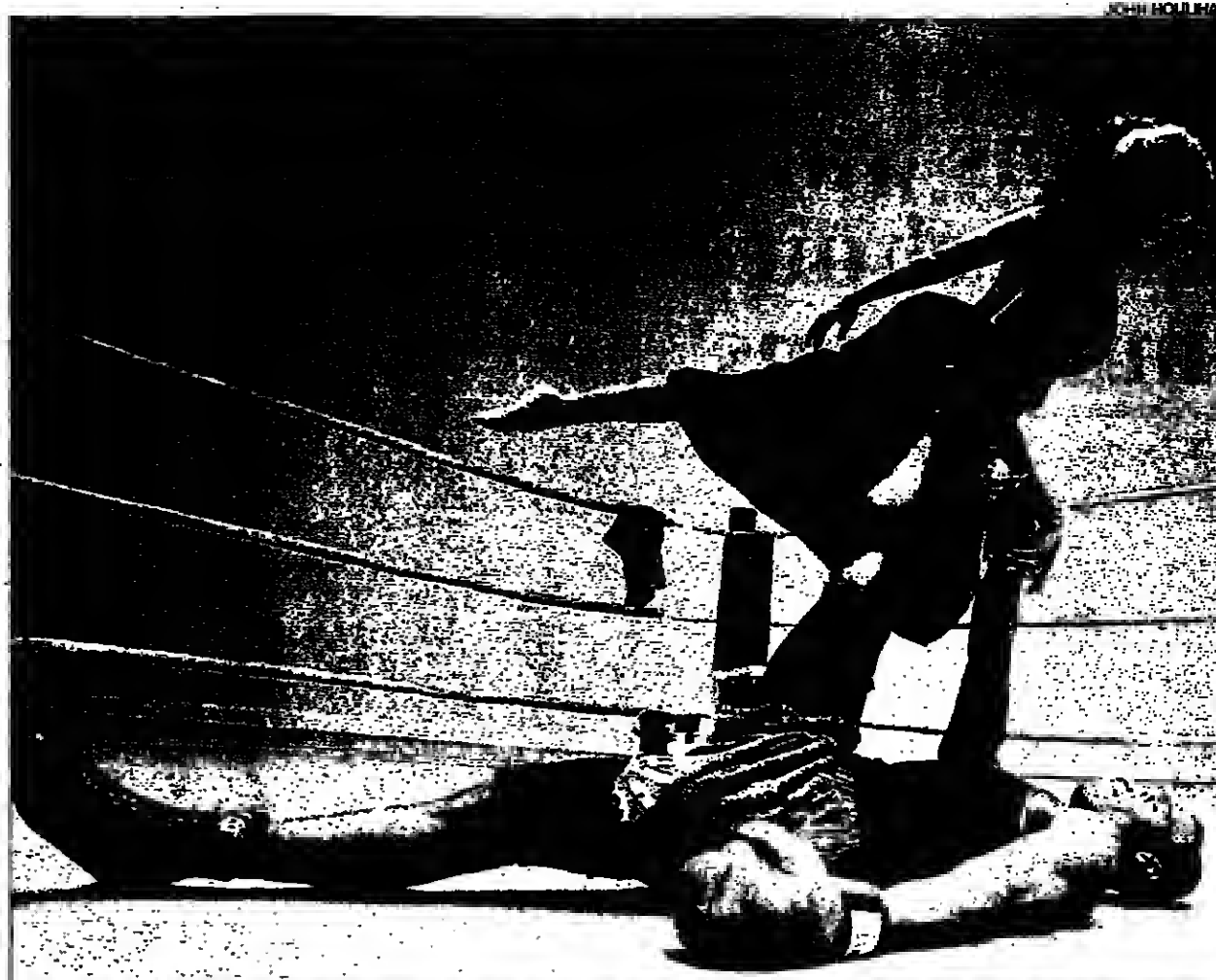
have been very positive. We have heard no talk of removing the ships for fitting out elsewhere, but I would not be surprised if it was an option they were considering."

He added: "We have stabilised the company, we have got work continuing. When I came in last week it was an empty yard. Today it is a working yard. We have put one foot forward, but there are a lot of steps still to take."

Mr Horsfield said that enquiries about buying the yard had come from shipbuilders in the UK and abroad as well as from companies here and overseas who were considering other uses for the site.

"It is now our job to turn those expressions of interest into offers to buy."

Letters, page 19



Dancing clever: Stephen Derrick and Dawn Donaldson, of Phoenix Dance, performing at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, the pugilistic piece Heart of Chaos, which explores relationships, violence and valour

## Humans gain new ancestor

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

MODERN man lived alongside Neanderthals in the Middle East 100,000 years ago, fragments of teeth enamel have shown. Archaeologists are now convinced that the two species co-existed for at least 50,000 years in the area, sharing a common culture.

The finding lays to rest the idea that the stocky Neanderthals were the ancestors of the taller Homo sapiens. In the Middle East at least, the evidence is that modern humans were there first and were followed by the Neanderthals.

In today's issue of *Nature*, scientists from the Open University, the Australian National University in Canberra and the Natural History Museum in London present evidence from sites at Taban, Qafzeh and Skhul. Setting out to confirm the dates using a new method, they deduced from small fragments of tooth enamel the age of skeletons of animals found in the same burial caves as human remains.

The scientists' results supported claims that Neanderthal man was a relative latecomer to the Levant.

## Divorce courts 'need pension-splitting law'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAW reforms to empower courts to share out pension rights between couples at a divorce were urged yesterday by a working party of experts.

Their report, widely hoped to form the basis of legislation, seeks to end the injustice by which courts cannot generally divide a pension on divorce, although it is often a couple's chief asset.

Sir Alec Atkinson, chairman of the working party, set up by the Pensions Management Institute with the Law Society, said that the aim was "to devise fair and practicable ways of dividing pension rights on divorce which would be consistent with the present broad approach to the treatment of property on divorce".

The idea was that the proposals would reduce the need for costly court proceedings, Sir Alec said. Administrative costs of pension-splitting should be borne by the divorcing couples.

The main proposal is that courts should be able to share occupational and personal pension rights between divorcing couples by specifying certain types of pensions adjust-

ment orders. The working party also proposes a standard method of valuing pension rights, using the statutory provision whereby a sum known as the "cash equivalent" has to be made available as a transfer payment to another pension scheme when someone leaves a scheme after two years.

Sir Alec said that, in a classic case in which a husband had built up pension rights, the value of those rights would be reduced by a specified sum and that sum would be made available as a transfer payment in respect of the wife to another suitable scheme, giving her pension rights independent of her husband.

Courts could split all of a husband's pension rights as they think fair, including guaranteed minimum pensions or protected rights of contracted-out employees.

Sir Alec said: "To provide more security for the ex-wife in receipt of maintenance, perhaps while she has young children to care for, we see a need for the court to be able to order the husband to take out life insurance for the benefit of his former wife."

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## Betty Maxwell seeks Mirror pension of £311,000

By JON ASHWORTH

THE family of the disgraced publisher Robert Maxwell faces a legal battle over his widow's demand for an annual pension of £311,000 from Mirror Group Newspapers.

Betty Maxwell, 72, who claims to have been left penniless after her husband's death in November 1991, is pressing for the cash and more than £1 million in back payments from the MGN pension scheme. The claim is certain to outrage the 20,000 Maxwell pensioners who faced hardship after her husband stole £450 million from their pension schemes.

Mrs Maxwell's solicitors, D J Freeman, have written to MGN, claiming an annual pension of £311,000 payable since her husband's death. The letter says that £466,000 is due in back-payments, with a discretionary grant of £750,000 to cover Mrs Maxwell's service to the company.

No one at D J Freeman was prepared to comment yesterday. The pension fund issued a statement saying: "The trustees do not comment on

matters affecting individuals that are private to those individuals."

The trustees are understood to be ready to fight Mrs Maxwell in court to prevent her from obtaining the money. The pension fund is being replenished by the newspaper group at a cost of nearly £20 million a year.

Mrs Maxwell received £15,000 from the pension fund shortly after her husband died. Further payments were blocked when details of the fraud came to light.

It is unclear whether Maxwell paid into the MGN scheme to cover pensions for himself and his wife.

The liquidators of Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM), the company that administered the pension funds, recently recovered £500,000 from Ian Maxwell.

A court held that he breached his duty as a BIM director by signing forms for the transfer of shares worth about £580,000 to Credit Suisse without obtaining an assurance that the transfers



Hard times: Betty Maxwell, photographed with her daughter Ghislaine the day before Maxwell's funeral

had been approved by BIM board members.

Neil Cooper of Robson Rhodes, the liquidator, had earlier obtained judgment for £406 million against Ian Maxwell, making him Britain's biggest ever bankrupt.

The fight to recover the missing funds was stepped up in January when Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, called on Sir John Cuckney,

chairman of Royal Insurance, to mediate in efforts to track down and distribute funds on behalf of MGN pensioners.

The move to speed up the return of the assets came in the wake of a hard-hitting report from the Commons social security select committee, which pointed out that £34 million had been spent on fees to professional advisers involved in tracing the

funds, with little to show for it. The fees, which are expected to rise substantially, will be offset against any retrieved pension fund assets.

Although about £150 million of funds held in a common investment fund have been recovered, administrators, lawyers and liquidators are still arguing about how it should be distributed.

The report said: "The Max-

well pensioners have waited for more than a year to have any of their pension assets restored. They should not be made to suffer any longer when there are sufficient assets to overcome their immediate plight."

Sir John was appointed to mastermind a £2.5 million "drip feed" scheme for pensioners while their assets were tracked down.

## Widow faces wrath of former workers

By A STAFF REPORTER

TO SOME, she is a hated woman: her husband, a tyrant and a bully, left a legacy that ruined thousands of lives. To others, she is the woman who suffered most from the extraordinary character of Robert Maxwell. After his death, she left Britain for exile, and she claims to be penniless.

Rightly or wrongly, Betty Maxwell, 72, widow of Robert Maxwell, has become an object of obsession for thousands of Maxwell pensioners who have had hardship heaped upon them after the publisher's death in 1991.

Since then, his widow has done her utmost to stay out of the limelight. However, despite moving to France, the spotlight has repeatedly turned to Betty Maxwell.

Eyebrows rose at reports that the chateau she occupied was worth £1 million. Then, it emerged that she had contributed over £900,000 towards legal costs of her sons Kevin and Ian, who face fraud charges, which they deny. News that she is seeking a big pension will horrify 20,000 Maxwell pensioners seeing their pension schemes topped up agonisingly slowly.

In November, in her first big television interview since her husband's death, she spoke of Maxwell pensioners who had £450 million pilfered from their pension funds. She said: "My heart

absolutely bleeds for those people of my age who are now suffering hardship."

"Personally, I can do nothing because I have no money myself at all. Somebody printed that I am one of the richest women in England. If that was true, would I approve an auction of all my personal belongings, jewellery, dishes, everything and just stand aside helplessly? Everything is going to the creditors. I need to find a job and support myself. Otherwise, what would I eat?"

Most attention has focused on her sons. Kevin Maxwell became Britain's biggest bankrupt in September 1992, with personal debts of £406 million, and signed on at a JobCentre. His wife Pandora entered media folklore by telling early-morning visitors to her Chelsea home to "give up", only to find they were police, not reporters.

Ian Maxwell staved off bankruptcy by producing £500,000 for MGN pensioners. He and his wife Laura have sold their Belgravia flat for £460,000 to pay legal fees.

Ghislaine Maxwell, the youngest of the tycoon's children and inspiration for *Lady Ghislaine*, Maxwell's 180ft yacht, hit the headlines in November when photographed boarding Concorde for a trip to New York, where she now lives. A one-way ticket is more than £2,000.

## Chess links worlds of study and play

By IAN MURRAY

THE schoolteacher who entered Nigel Short in his first chess tournament, at the age of seven, said yesterday that the game should be used as a way of improving education standards in Britain.

Richard Furness, director of junior chess for the British Chess Federation (BCF), said the game gave children vital self-confidence.

He said: "In my years as a teacher, I found that children who could not even read, or write gained great self-confidence through learning how to play."

Mr Furness, who was a geography teacher in Lancashire, said: "Knowing they could play chess gave them something to come to school for. Once a child finds he is good at something, it stops the disillusionment in education."

The strong link between chess and education is documented in a book by David Norwood, who is 24 and Britain's second youngest grandmaster, to be published next month. He said yesterday: "Chess gives a kid a medium in which he can express himself."

"Once they know the moves, they find this is an area in which they are not disadvantaged when playing against an adult. It gives them great self-confidence, which makes it easier for them to tackle

other subjects. Compared to chess, foreign languages and mathematics are easy."

Mr Norwood said that chess was particularly good for keeping a child absorbed for hours, acting as a bridge between play and learning.

Since 1958, *The Times* has sponsored the annual schools chess tournament. The leading schools in the tournament are all among the schools that have done best in the government's GCSE and A-level league tables.

One of the aims of *The Times* Chess World Championship is to generate activities that will boost junior chess. The London Chess Festival, to be run in conjunction with the match, will enable at least 50,000 children to come to London for lessons, and schools throughout the country will be encouraged to compete in tournaments.

The world title match between Short and Garry Kasparov, the reigning champion, will be played at the Savoy Theatre between September 7 and October 30. Bonds for seats are already selling well but can still be obtained from *The Times* by telephoning 071-240 0049 or by writing to PO Box 92, London WC2H 9SU.

Coupon, page 38

### CHAMPIONSHIP CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

The longest running fixture in the chess calendar is the annual varsity match between Oxford University and Cambridge University. This year the match resulted in another Oxford victory. Over the past decade the dark blues have dominated the event. It was hosted at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall and sponsored by chess-loving solicitors, Watson, Farley & Williams.

The match was won by Oxford by 5½-2½.

White: T. Reilly (Jesus, Cambridge).  
Black: S. Rachels (Hertford, Oxford).  
Varsity Match 1993

Queen's Gambit Accepted

1 d4	d5
2 c4	exd4
3 Nc3	e6
4 e4	b5
5 Nxe2	Bb7
6 Bg3	e5
7 Bxc4	exd4
8 Qb3	Nd5
10 Nh3	Kf6
11 Bg5	Kf5
12 Bxg6	Kg5

Diagram of final position

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White resigns

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Winning Move. Page 44

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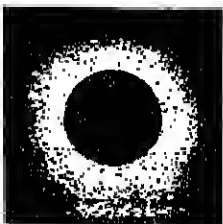
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Are cars as responsive and controllable as they could be?

Are they as safe as they should be?

Does a car with a spacious interior have to have a bulky exterior?

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## IT READS THE ROAD, IT READS YOUR MIND.

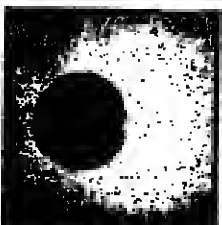
What makes this system unique is its self-levelling suspension linked to a programmed self-steering rear axle.

This provides an unequalled combination of ride comfort and roadholding.

What makes it special is the addition of multiple sensors that constantly monitor your journey by reading the road and reacting automatically to the signals received and to your actions.

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So if you're driving along a bumpy road, the road handling system reacts to give you the most comfortable ride possible.



Whilst should you drive quickly round a sharp bend, the suspension immediately becomes



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## A SAFER CAR TO DRIVE.

Importantly, this system also makes Xantia a very safe car to drive. Because it possesses

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We've made it safer still. Not only do all four wheels maintain optimum contact with the ground, thanks to Citroën's self-levelling suspension, but all four wheels turn into a bend thanks to the programmed self-steering rear axle.

And we don't stop there. The addition of our anti-lock braking system, allied to the quick-thinking road handling system, means that when you brake, the car is always kept flat to the road and you remain in total command.

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And we've reinforced the bumper, installed a front seatbelt locking system and tucked the fuel tank out of harm's way ahead of the rear axle.

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We certainly didn't stop at styling of Xantia. It's pleasingly compact, yet dynamic. The proximity of the curves. Open the door, and you'll find a surprise: that steering wheel which offers more other car in its class. You'll find even more surprising conclusions.



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## ELEGANT OUTSIDE, THE LUXURY OF SPACE INSIDE.

We certainly didn't play safe when it came to the styling of Xantia.

It's pleasingly distinctive with a series of elegant, yet dynamic lines, a far cry from the uniformity of the current Japanese influence.

Open the door, however, and you're in for a big surprise; that sleek body surrounds an interior which offers more elbow room than any other car in its class.

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area of glass giving a light, airy feel.

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controls for the stereo system mounted on the steering wheel and panels cut into the back of the front seats to give the backseat passengers even more legroom.

And we went to unheard of lengths to make the cabin quiet. Over 90,000 man hours were spent looking into ways of shielding the

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## A BETTER WAY TO BUILD A CAR, A BETTER WAY TO PROTECT IT.

Not only does Xantia look like no other car in its class, it is built like no other.

Small, specialised assembly teams concentrate on constructing one part of the car at a time. This ensures that mistakes don't go unnoticed and that each piece can be perfected before it's put together.

To make the paint finish as faultless as the car, we painted it in a dust-free environment, where the air is cleaner than a hospital operating theatre.

Obviously a car this desirable is going to attract a lot of attention.

Should that attention be unwanted, the Xantia is protected by a two-way alarm system. Not only does it guard against intruders, it also detects movement inside the car.

Cruciform keys make the door locks three times harder to pick and, to deter the most ardent of thieves, there are deadlocks and coded engine immobilisation on most models.

## SEE XANTIA ON A WEEKEND TO ECLIPSE ALL OTHERS.

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If you can't wait, your local dealer will tell you about the range of 15 models that includes the 1.6i, 1.8i and 2.0i, plus the 2 litre 155hp 16 valve. Whilst diesel enthusiasts will be interested in the 1.9 and the sprightly 1.9 turbo diesels.

Every single one of these engines has been specially designed to maximise responsiveness and flexibility across the rev range, giving you more power more quickly.

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# Portillo warns of harsh measures to cut £50bn deficit

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN END to automatic free prescriptions for pensioners and children was floated yesterday by ministers as the Treasury delivered its grimest warning yet about the state of the nation's finances.

In a rare display of ministerial candour, Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary, said last night that the deterioration in the government's bank balance had been rapid and that Britain had the highest deficit in the EC — worse even than Italy, normally taken as the benchmark of fiscal profligacy.

Seeking to prepare Tory backbenchers and ministerial colleagues for a spending round of unparalleled ferocity, he said that the government could not simply raise taxes. The huge increases required would be ethically, politically and economically unacceptable. Something would have to be given among critical spending programmes and the government would have to court unpopularity to get the £50 billion deficit under control.

The "wake-up call" from the electorate in Newbury was not a sign of dissatisfaction with lack of spending. Spending was part of the problem, Mr Portillo, a rising star of the right of the Tory party, said since 1979 had been founded on a clear platform of tight

control of public spending. With the government's majority down to 18 and with Tory MPs in a rebellious mood, the Treasury is worried about its chances of bulldozing through politically explosive cuts. Mr Portillo's warnings about trimming the welfare state were an attempt to soften up Tory MPs for unpalatable measures.

His speech, to the Association of Investment Trust Companies in London, coincided with disclosures that Virginia Bottomley's £30 billion health budget has emerged as a prime target for the Treasury axe. As part of the long-term review of public spending, part of which will be implemented on this year's Whitehall budget, Mr Portillo is asking why four out of five prescriptions currently escape the charge of £4.25 an item.

The list of exemptions includes all pensioners, children under 16, students up to 19, people with chronic illnesses, mothers during pregnancy and for a year after childbirth, and those receiving income support and family credit. Prescription charges are projected to raise £278 million this year — only a tenth of the NHS drugs bill. Imposing a prescription charge on better-off pensioners and parents could raise several hundred million pounds.

"The deterioration in our

public finances has been rapid," Mr Portillo said. "Following a recession which turned out longer than expected, our primary deficit, excluding debt interest, is the highest in the EC. Higher even than Italy. Naturally, our interest payments are rising fast. As recently as 1988 we repaid £14.5 billion of debt in a single year. This year we expect to borrow £50 billion — a turnaround of nearly £65 billion."

Public spending had risen by 17 per cent since 1989 while output had been stagnant. As a share of national income, state spending was up from 40 per cent to 45 per cent.

Mr Portillo emphasised the importance of not exceeding the tough spending ceilings set for the next two years, but suggested that the combination of these restraints and the £17 billion tax increases over 1994-5 would not be enough. The deficit was projected to decline from 8 per cent of GDP to just under 4 per cent over the next five years, but total public sector debt was rising fast — to £250 billion this year — and servicing it was one of the fastest growing public expenditure items. Huge tax increases, which would drag down the economy, would be needed to tackle this shortfall. Higher interest rates would be another side effect of letting spending rip.



School of the air: John Major puts his case on Europe, classroom tests and cabinet reshuffles on the Jimmy Young show yesterday

## Major sticks to his lecture notes in politics lesson

By ALAN HAMILTON

MARGARET Thatcher used to call him Jimmy in every other sentence. You almost felt she was cuddling her interviewer on her knee as she purred down his microphone like a grand old aunt addressing a favoured nephew.

Between Mr Young and Mr Major yesterday there was clearly a stout table. More of a tutorial between a cheeky student and a patient lecturer in a minor economics faculty who has given this lesson a hundred times before. Is going to stick to his notes and not rise to any bait.

Yes, I'd be happy to spell out my

vision of Europe. Not enthusiastic to move towards a single currency. A fallacy that Britain loses all the arguments in Europe. The student, clamping at the bit, mentions two names that are not in the teacher's crib. "I can see you wish to catch me between Sir Edward Heath and Lord Tebbit." Woops, was that a hint of a laugh in there? Quick, back to the notes.

The student ventures that there is concern about Maastricht all over Europe. Jimmy, I share that view. But if I am to stand any chance of changing that, Jimmy, it's no use standing on the edge throwing stones in the pond. That's enough Jimmy,

and enough Europe. Have you got a bunker mentality? Always a risk. Go out and about more than any predecessor. Good. Fine. But look here, prime minister, what about VAT on fuel bills? Bit out of touch with the people on that one? No. For the average family it isn't going to be a very substantial impost.

All right, what about John Patten, who has antagonised just about everybody with his school tests. Most of your listeners are in favour of testing. We are making them less bureaucratic. No nags being lost here, the questioner thinks, so we'll get him going with the L-word. Even the suggestion that

Lamont, not to mention the rest of the cabinet, might be a touch arrogant does not raise the temperature. No, I am not going to discuss reshuffles. But it was a very elegantly put question. A laugh again. Are we getting warm?

Why does everyone from *The Sun* to Lord Rees-Mogg dislike you so much? Why do they call you Mr Wobbly in Washington? Well, it's Europe. But broad shoulders. All part of the job. Thank you, prime minister. Thank you very much, Jimmy. End of lesson. Hope you got it all down. And by the way, whatever they did in Denmark, there are no plans for a written test here.

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## Referendum offer keeps PR alive

John Smith yesterday opened a door which he will find it hard to close. Characteristically, he did it in a way intended not to alarm those who want the door barred up for ever. He is still unconvinced of the need for a change in the voting system for the Commons. But, by proposing a referendum, he has ensured that the debate will continue, as the supporters of reform pointed out.

The debate concerns much more than acronyms about electoral systems. The report of the Plant committee matters not because of its least common denominator proposal for a supplementary vote, which will never be adopted, but because it has changed the way the issue is debated. The report argues that "there is no perfect electoral system in the sense of uniquely satisfying the range of criteria which one might think an electoral system ought to satisfy".

The strongest case for the first past the post system, as expressed by Mr Smith yesterday, is that it will produce a decisive result and single-party government. However, Lord Plant suggests that this may not necessarily remain the case.

In the past, the system has exaggerated a winning party's victory, giving it a disproportionately higher share of MPs than votes. However, an increasing geographical concentration of party support may produce more proportional results. With the same share of the total national vote, the Tories have won fewer seats at the last two general elections. This trend increases the chances of a hung Parliament and undermines a central argument for the present system.

The Plant report bases the case for change on the growing pluralism in British political life, the shift away from a class-based view to-

wards a greater emphasis on individual rights. The report emphasises the distortion of representation between regions produced by the increasing concentration of Labour support in big cities and industrial areas of the north and of Tory support in the suburbs, smaller towns and the rural areas. There are more Labour voters in southern England, where the party has only ten MPs outside London, than in Scotland, where it has 49 MPs.

These arguments are secondary to the central question of whether Labour can win an overall majority again. The anti-reform chapter puts the case bluntly: "We are certainly not prepared to trade the possibility of single-party government under first past the post for an electoral system which seeks to incorporate regional differentiation at the cost of permanent coalition." The right way to counter an over-mighty central government is by other constitutional changes.

There is no right answer. Power, and defence of their existing seats by Labour MPs in the north, matter more than principles. The outcome will be determined by what happens at the next election: whether the Tories win a fifth term or whether Labour can only form a minority government with Liberal Democrat support. Never a crusader, Mr Smith approaches the issue of electoral reform as a party manager desiring to minimise splits and as a parliamentarian conservative unwilling to disturb the constituency link. Less a leap in the dark than standing back to see others jump. It may not be heroic, but it could be politically astute.

PETER RIDDELL

John Biffen, page 18  
Leading article, page 19

## Clarke set to widen MPs' choice

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

KENNETH Clarke is looking towards a late tactical switch over the shake-up of Sunday trading laws just weeks before the government unveils plans for new legislation. The home secretary is considering adding a fourth option to the three he has already outlined and which will be detailed in a draft bill to be published in July.

The extra option, preventing most large stores from opening except on the four Sundays immediately prior to Christmas, has been drafted by the Retailers for Shops Act Reform group. The group of retailers includes leading high street names such as Marks & Spencer, House of Fraser, Gateway and Next, which are opposed to year-round Sunday trading.

The choices already offered include a total lifting of the ban on Sunday trading, partial deregulation allowing shops to open for six hours on Sunday, and a general prohibition of seven-day shopping. MPs will be allowed a "free" vote on each of the options in the next session of Parliament. Ministers initially resisted including the fourth option because it was seen as being too similar to the general prohibition choice, as proposed by the Keep Sunday Special Campaign.

However, the government has been frustrated by delays in the final drafting of the Keep Sunday Special proposals and Mr Clarke's personal preference for a total lifting of shopping restrictions faces widespread opposition among MPs.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland; prime minister. European Communities (amendment) bill, third reading.  
Lords (3): Housing and urban development bill, report stage continued.

## Lilley averts post offices revolt

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ROBERT MORGAN

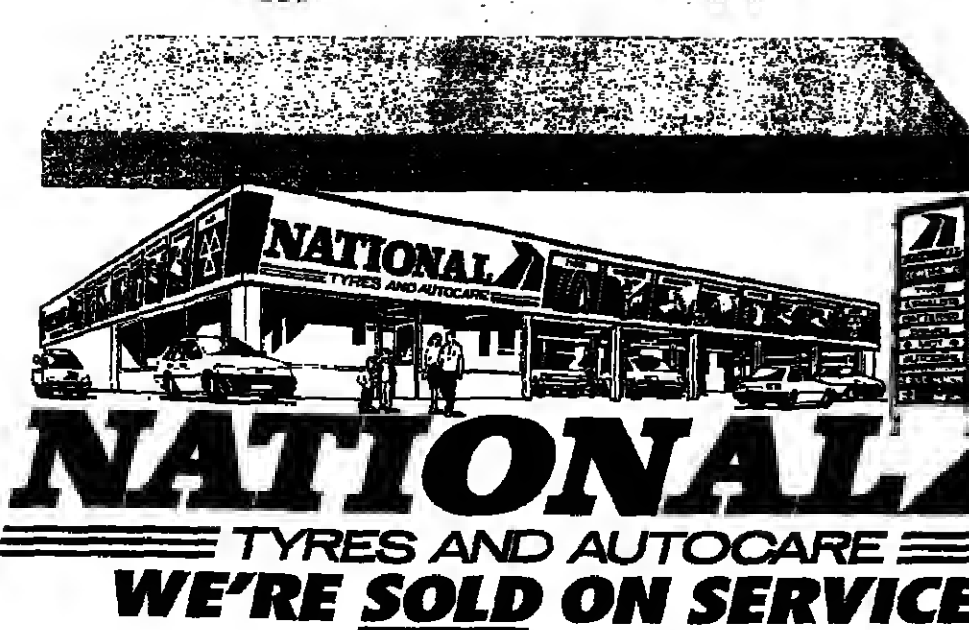
PETER Lilley headed off the threat of another backbench Tory revolt yesterday by promising to encourage people reaching retirement age to receive their pensions by automated credit transfer (ACT). Yesterday Mr Lilley said: "The new form will, of course, mention the Post Office option."

Amid rowdy scenes in the Commons, Donald Dewar, the Labour spokesman, said that the cost-cutting quest for ACT was "bordering on the dishonest". But Mr Lilley delighted his supporters by saying that all small post offices "at present are paid a fixed sum regardless of volume so changes in ACT will make no difference to the amount of remuneration they get".

Officials disclosed later that under the contract between the Benefits Agency and Post Office Counters Ltd, the company has to "provide a continuing and effective nationwide service" with any "significant change" to its size or make-up a matter for discussion between the parties.

Mr Lilley said that it cost £650 million a year to distribute social security benefits. Each payment by order book cost 44p, compared with just 3p for ACT. Against this background, the government was bound to encourage ACT. It was "nonsense" to blame ACT for closures of sub-post offices when such closures were running at a lower rate than in the 1970s, Mr Lilley said.

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# Parliament backs away from clash with Yeltsin

FROM ANNE McELVOY  
IN MOSCOW

RUSLAN Khasbulatov, Russia's parliamentary speaker, has toned down his attacks on President Yeltsin's plans for constitutional reform, after leading political figures indicated that they were drawing back from confrontation with the president.

Nikolai Ryabov, Mr Khasbulatov's deputy, noted for his moderate attacks on Mr Yeltsin, told *Izvestia* it was time to "seriously correct the course of conflict" and added, "if not, there will be no president and no parliament but only political oblivion". Mr Khasbulatov also said that compromise "could not be avoided".

However, Mr Khasbulatov

After last month's poll success, the Russian president is trying to force through constitutional changes. Parliament is still trying to stifle reforms that curb its powers

did not specify how he intended to respond to Mr Yeltsin's calling of the special assembly, made up of regional leaders, to pass a new constitution, which he had previously described as illegal. Even Sergei Baburin, one of Mr Yeltsin's most extreme parliamentary opponents, has now agreed it would be wise for parliament to work with the assembly.

The new temperate tones emanating from the parliament, focus of opposition to the president for more than a

year, indicate that the aura of confidence surrounding Mr Khasbulatov may be fading. Mr Yeltsin is using the boost he received in last month's referendum to press home his constitutional changes.

The deputies fear that any new constitution, even if it does not deliver to Mr Yeltsin the strong hand he seeks to rule Russia, would circumscribe the powers now granted to them under the old Soviet-era document. Their tough talk has a habit of fading to whimpers when

they sense their own importance is under threat.

Their allegiance to Mr Khasbulatov, who chivvied, threatened, and often told them plainly how to vote at the Congress of People's Deputies and the standing parliament throughout last year, has not been fully restored since he sought backroom deals with Mr Yeltsin in the last hours of the emergency March congress that would have ended its abolition. The deputies turned on Mr Khasbulatov.

There are signs that many conservatives are now behind Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president, as the main hope to unseat Mr Yeltsin, rather than Mr Khasbulatov.

The latter's career is likely



Khasbulatov: aura of confidence fading

to stand or fall with the fate of parliamentary power. As an ethnic Chechen he is an unacceptable candidate for the presidency and even those hardliners who support

him politically treat him as something of a social outsider. However, Mr Khasbulatov is unlikely to go down without a fight and his rhetorical gifts would be missed amid the stodgy deliberations of Russian politics, he recently lambasted congress as "an internal machine".

Mr Yeltsin's camp is determined to press ahead with constitutional reforms to end the deadlock between the two branches of power. Sergei Shakrai, a deputy prime minister, said yesterday that the government would seek a referendum on the draft document if it was rejected by congress and the assembly.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, the president's spokesman, sought to exploit the split in the parliamentary ranks

praising "those forces among the deputies... who have the courage and foresightedness to move away from confrontation with the president and towards dialogue". The Supreme Soviet also suffered a further setback when the constitutional court ruled yesterday that its attempt last summer to bring the liberal *Izvestia* newspaper under its control was illegal.

Vilnius' General Pavel Grachev, Russia's defence minister, visiting Lithuania, pledged yesterday to withdraw virtually all the 10,500 Russian soldiers still there by September as planned. He added that demands for a pull-out from Latvia and Estonia could not be met until bilateral agreements had been reached. (Reuters)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Heroine defends hostage taker

Paris: Laurence Dreyfus, the French nursery school teacher who chose to stay with her toddler pupils for most of a 46-hour hostage drama last week, says her hooded captor was no monster and that she was no "Joan of Arc" heroine.

Mme Dreyfus, in her first interview since the drama, told *Paris Match* magazine that she held no grudge against Eric Schmitt, who was shot dead by police. "I cannot stand hearing the man who led this hostage-taking called a monster," she said.

"Of course he made us suffer — the parents, the children, my relatives, myself. But he was always correct and calm. I spoke with him, we exchanged ideas, words. For me he was a human being and he remains one, even if I never saw his face."

At one point, Schmitt told Mme Dreyfus: "I've caused you and the children so much trouble that I'd like to set aside envelopes with enough money to pay for a week's holiday for you all." (Reuters)

### Mayor arrested

Rome: Italy's corruption investigation snared another prominent politician with the arrest of Claudio Burlando, mayor of Genoa, in connection with last year's celebrations of the city's native son, Christopher Columbus. (AP)

### West Bank raid

Hebron: Soldiers shot and killed two Palestinian militants and blew up underground hideouts during a helicopter-backed raid in the occupied West Bank, military and Arab reports said. (AP)

### Militants seized

Cairo: Egyptian police have arrested 622 members of Vanguard of the New Holy Struggle, a previously unknown Muslim fundamentalist group that is seeking full Islamic rule. They were charged with forming an illegal organisation. (Reuters)

### Revolt pays off

Bangui: Regular troops in the Central African Republic mutinied over unpaid wages, forcing President Kolingba to order the release of two months' back-pay. Troops scaled off the treasury and evicted workers. (Reuters)

### Deadly counsel

Peking: Police arrested a woman in northern China who wanted a son so desperately that she poisoned her three young daughters on the advice of a soothsayer, it was reported. All of the three children died. (Reuters)

## Vance-Owen plan blamed for 'ethnic cleansing'

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR  
AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE UN investigator of atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina made a devastating indictment of the Vance-Owen plan yesterday, saying it had accelerated "ethnic cleansing".

"The peace plan, according to which Bosnia and Herzegovina would be divided along ethnic lines, has been used in order to create ethnically homogeneous areas," Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the former Polish prime minister, said in a report. He said the lack of an effective international response to the policy of "ethnic cleansing" by Serb forces created the precedent of impunity, which allowed them to continue and encouraged Croat forces to adopt the same policy. He detailed alleged war crimes by Croat forces against Muslim civilians, including summary execution, the destruction of homes and the ambush of fleeing civilians.

Mr Mazowiecki's charges will embarrass Western governments at a time that the Vance-Owen plan appears to be unravelling. Britain brushed aside Mr Mazowiecki's criticisms. "The same charges were levelled at the proposals put forward by Lord Carrington [the former European Community mediator]. They came up every time there is a ceasefire," an official said.

"The plan is the basis for a settlement. We are not saying it is perfect. We have got a range of economic and political pressures and those will remain on the Bosnian Serbs until they see sense." Britain supported Lord Owen's attempt in talks with Croat and Muslim leaders to stop the fighting, though insisting that no agreement should foreclose an overall settlement.

Mr Mazowiecki said grave allegations of human rights violations had been made against both Croats and Muslims during the fighting in April and May. The principal victims were the Muslim community. "This population lives in fear of being exterminated," he said. He said attempts to implement the Vance-Owen plan stimulated certain acts in order to accomplish a full accomplice. "In this way, it stimulated ethnic cleansing."

Another UN report says that the UN peacekeeping force in Croatia is starting to crumble because of money shortages and the stalemate between Zagreb and the country's Serb minority. One battalion of the

peacekeepers — identified by diplomats as the Nigerian contingent of some 900 men — has announced it will withdraw from the 13,000-strong force, and no other country is ready to provide replacement troops because the UN is not able to reimburse their cost on time. The UN is also having difficulty finding countries to contribute the 2,200 new peacekeepers that will be needed if the Croatians agree to implement a ceasefire accord.

"The UN Protection Force (Unprofor) is severely handicapped in performing its functions and its personnel are in peril," Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, wrote in a report to the security council. UN observers and police are often unable to leave the main towns in the Serb pockets of Croatia. Peacekeepers have been threatened. Dr Boutros Ghali even suggested that the security council consider withdrawing the UN force from Croatia, but he leaned towards maintaining the UN presence in its existing form, with the addition of about 400 men and 160 armoured personnel carriers.

□ **Pale, Bosnia:** Bosnian Serb deputies here were told yesterday that 96 per cent of voters in the weekend referendum had rejected the Vance-Owen plan and the same number had voted in favour of an independent Bosnian Serb state. But the deputies appeared to be backing away from a formal "declaration of independence". The assembly also adopted a declaration that it would abide by ceasefire agreements.

Camp under fire, page 1  
Leading article, page 19



Mazowiecki: reported Croat war crimes



Clean up: A British soldier, left, targets snipers, while others search for bodies in Muslim houses burnt by Croats opposite the British UN base in Vitez

## British camp in Croat crossfire

Continued from page 1

others appeared to have been set alight later in the day.

Five families from the community of Bazen on the outskirts of Vitez escaped from the Croats and joined about 200 Muslims who have taken refuge in four houses to the east of the camp.

One man, whose 23-year-old son had been killed by machinegun fire the day before, and whose body had been dumped by the camp, said the Croats had been threatening to cleanse Bazen of Muslims for a month.

Muslim snipers, who have been firing on Croat snipers for several days, opened fire from two houses on a hill to the east of the camp, adding to the noise over the British base.

One Muslim woman said: "My house was torched by the Croats. They were looting and burning the houses."

Within 15 minutes of the gunfire starting, five British armoured Warriors were deployed up and down the main road separating the camp from the houses under fire. There were no retaliatory shots from the British soldiers, and no incoming rounds landed in the camp.

Last night, after a warning from the Croat militia to the Muslims to stop firing, an anti-aircraft weapon opened fire on Muslim sniper positions. Before dawn this morn-

ing two British Warriors will sit on the hill as a deterrent to try to stop the Croats from taking the Muslim position.

An outbreak of fighting between Muslims and Croats in Vitez had been threatened for days, with constant sniper fire. One Croat sniper appears to be a neighbour of mine, positioned three houses away.

Soldiers from the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire aimed their weapons in the direction of the gunfire in case they were aimed at Lieutenant Colonel Alastair Duncan, commander of the new battalion group in Bosnia-Herzegovina, said: "I can't interpose between the two sides. But the local commanders know that there should be no military action within 500 metres of the camp."

Standing beside a Warrior, Lieutenant Colonel Duncan said: "My most important concern is the safety of my own troops. The camp is secure. Our actions are limited, although we do as much as we can to stop the fighting."

Earlier, a British military spokesman said: "We can't join in. There's no point in us starting a six-month tour by going for the snipers and ending up becoming a fourth side in the civil war."

Leading article, page 19

## Russians launch diplomatic drive to salvage peace plan

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ANDREI Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, was struggling last night to salvage the Vance-Owen peace plan during intense diplomatic activity on the fringes of a meeting of foreign and defence ministers of the Western European Union.

The ministerial session of the ten-nation body began with lunch at the Italian foreign ministry with Bosnia-Herzegovina at the top of the menu. Italy is the present WEU chairman and the meeting coincided with a visit to Naples by Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the Bosnia mediators, to discuss the implementation of their plan with Nato commanders.

At the same time Mr Kozyrev had talks here with Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Italian prime minister. The Russian envoy was expected to meet Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, last night. Mr Kozyrev repeated Russia's offer to send troops to monitor Bosnian frontiers.

After talks with Beniamino Andreatta, the Italian foreign minister, Mr Kozyrev said he hoped a last-minute deal could be reached to salvage the peace plan. "If the Vance-Owen plan is dead then what is alive? Probably everyone and everything will be dead in

Yugoslavia. The only alternative is unrestrained fighting."

President Clinton said on Tuesday that he was unsure if the plan for Bosnia brokered by the United Nations remained feasible after its rejection by the Bosnian Serbs. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, said the Bosni-

an conflict was a "morass" and a "war of all against all" with atrocities on all sides. Lord Owen said his peace plan was on track after Croats and Muslims agreed a truce. The United States and Russia disagreed whether the formula to end the 13-month war would ever work.

## Ridiculed Clinton beats a retreat on Bosnia

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN WASHINGTON AND  
MICHAEL BINYON

WARREN Christopher, the US Secretary of State, is to meet his Russian, British and French counterparts in Washington today, tomorrow and on Monday, but one thing is now obvious: any new drive to end Bosnia's bloodshed will have to come from the Europeans, not America.

The Clinton administration, its plan for arming Bosnia's Muslims flatly rejected by the allies, is beating a rapid retreat from what Mr Christopher calls the "problem from hell". There is no popular support in America for military intervention. Mr Clinton has decided to cut his losses and largely relinquish the leadership role he assumed three months ago.

On Tuesday, he pointedly declared that "at heart this is a European problem". He planned to "take advantage of the best thinking from the European side because in many, many respects it's their problem". He called

Bosnia a "morass" of ancient hatreds, a "war between all, against all" with each belligerent guilty of atrocities. He thereby implied that without an obvious victim there was no moral case for intervention.

Mr Christopher insists the US plan for arming the Muslims remains on the table, but in reality it is on the shelf. The administration's emphasis has switched sharply from curtailing the conflict to containing it within Bosnia's borders. Preserving alliance unity has become the overriding priority. Mr Clinton has virtually ceased talking about Bosnia, leaving any pronouncement to his hapless Secretary of State, and exasperated European officials complain that the administration will not make decisions.

Mr Clinton had "so far failed miserably in Bosnia... advocating the use of force but not doing so, belittling the Vance-Owen peace plan and then adopting it, claiming unity with our European allies and then conceding none exists," wrote the Washington Post columnist Richard Cohen.

Advocates of intervention are furious. "He's told all these dictators around the world that he's a bluffer," said Dana Rohrabacher, a Republican congressman. "It borders on being a farce," said Frank McCloskey, a Democratic congressman. "Clinton is abdication leadership of the free world," said a spokesman for the American Muslim Council.

Mr Clinton's past statements on Bosnia are already returning to haunt him. "While the Bush administration goes back and forth, more lives are being lost and the situation grows more desperate by the day," he declared when he first advocated military intervention to prove he was not another Democratic "dove".

"When... the will and conscience of the international community is defied, we will act — with peaceful diplomacy whenever possible, with force when necessary," he proclaimed in his inaugural address. After the Bosnian Serb parliament's rejection of the Vance-Owen peace plan earlier this month, he ordered Mr Christopher to intensify

pressure on the Europeans and to be "insistent that the time has come for the international community to unite and act quickly and decisively". Only last Friday he insisted: "We are not vacillating. We have a clear, strong policy."

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, will travel to America tomorrow for talks with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, and Mr Christopher.

CFR plan: France is seeking international support for a plan to deploy additional United Nations troops in Muslim-populated "safe areas" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and diplomats say the proposal has broad support in the Security Council (James Bone writes).

France envisages both reinforcing and redeploying the existing 9,000-strong UN force in the former Yugoslav republic to protect the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo and the four Muslim enclaves of Bihać, Tuzla, Zepa and Srebrenica, and Foca and Gorazde.

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DAKS | Simpson





As the din of gunfire and celebration dies in Copenhagen, Europe's gaze turns to Britain

## Danish 'Yes' bought at cost of worst postwar violence

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN  
AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

IN THE aftermath of the Danish referendum, police opened fire directly on Copenhagen demonstrators for the first time in the country's postwar history to save an injured officer, a police spokesman said yesterday.

"The unrest is the worst we have ever experienced in Copenhagen," Willy Eliassen, a police spokesman, said. "We witnessed an aggressiveness and total disregard for human life that we have never experienced before."

Mr Eliassen said the police fired up to 100 warning shots, then turned their small arms fire directly on the demonstrators when it looked as if they might kill an injured policeman lying on the ground. However, demonstrators accused police of strong-arm tactics. "They shot us because we said 'No' to the Maastricht treaty," one man with a gunshot wound in his leg told reporters.

The rioters were denounced by politicians on all sides. "These events are totally unacceptable," Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, the prime minister told a press conference. "My thoughts go at this moment to our police who have been hit badly. This riot was planned and organised, and the government will not hesitate to ensure that this will not happen again," he added.

Mr Rasmussen said the rioters, angered at the vote which approved the treaty, had thrown between six and eight tonnes of rocks and bricks at police. Mr Eliassen said the police had shot and wounded 11 people. Nine protesters were still in hospital last night, but all the police had been allowed home.

The violence cast a shadow over the referendum. Barely had the Danes' 56.8 to 43.2 per cent endorsement of closer European union been announced than the pent-up tensions of a year-long political confrontation over Europe exploded in rioting in the poor Norrebro (North Bridge)

quarter of the capital. More than 300 squatters and activists — mainly youths incensed by the result, or drunk after spring festivities — clashed with police in a five-hour stand-off. The district, which they had earlier declared an "EC-free zone", was turned into a wasteland of burnt-out barricades, torn-up cobblestones, bricks and splintered glass.

Working-class Norrebro, inhabited by disaffected, unemployed young people and polarised political groups, was frequently the scene of street confrontations involving large-scale police intervention in the 1970s and 1980s.

Even before the din of celebration and rioting had died down, leading European Community figures began setting the EC's crowded agenda.



Rasmussen: rioting was "totally unacceptable"

for the rest of the year. Ratification of the treaty is so far behind schedule that a backlog of divisive questions has accumulated in the EC's bottom drawer. Although the Community will wait several months at least for British and German ratification, Denmark's clear-cut endorsement of the treaty has released several combatants from the discretion which they maintained until the Danish vote. Alain Juppé, France's for-

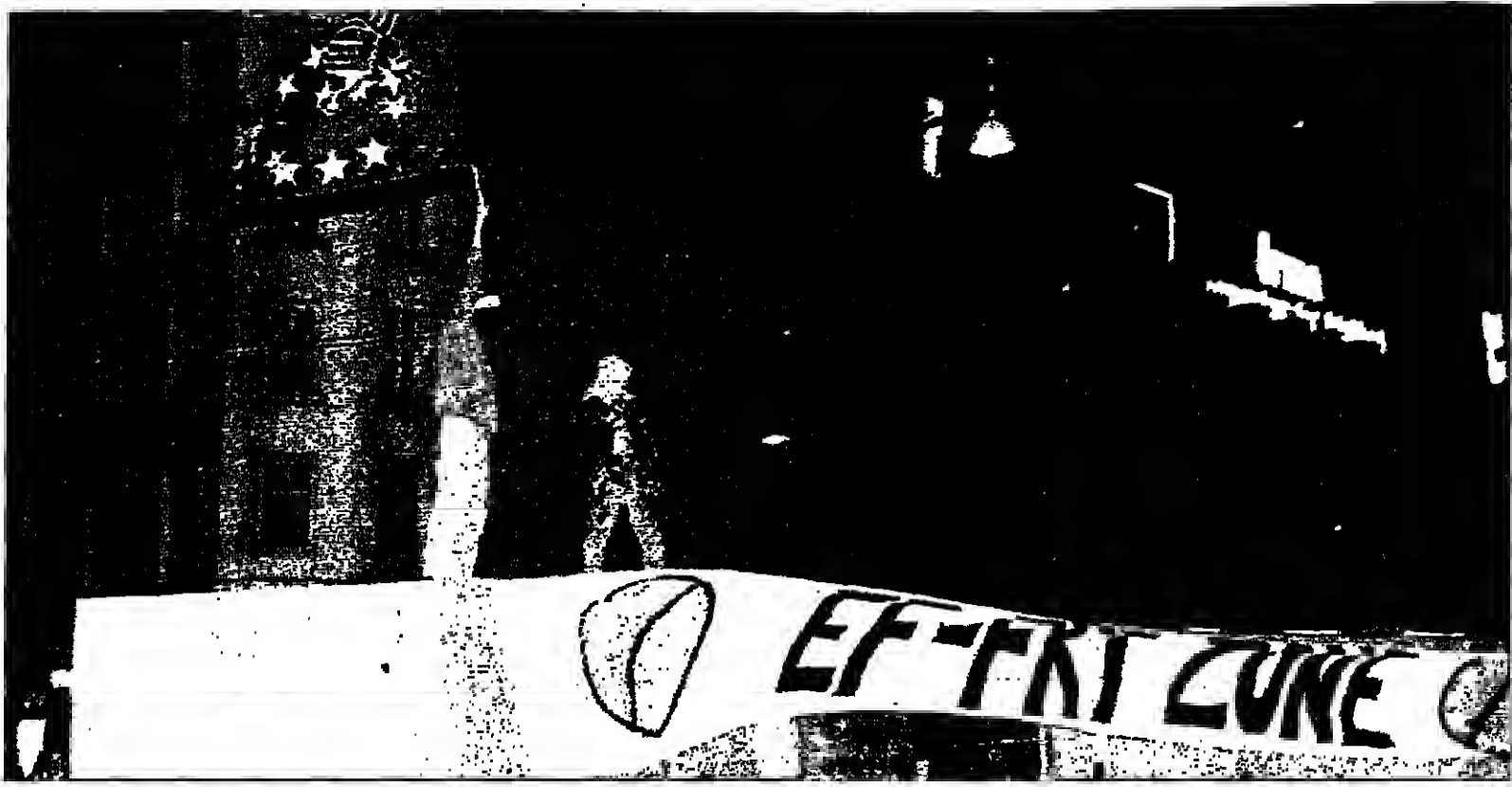
eign minister, quickly raised two topics which the British government would like to stay well clear of until the treaty's fate is fully settled. "The first priority is to convince our partners... starting with Britain, to come back to the discipline of the European Monetary System," he said. Interviewed on French radio yesterday, M Juppé said that the EC needed to re-examine its majority voting system before admitting the four states now negotiating to join in 1995. This is one of the most sensitive subjects inside the EC. France fears the voting power of small-state coalitions in an EC of 16 members. Small states fear any dilution of their power.

EC finance ministers meet in Denmark this weekend to complete their inquest on the storms which struck the exchange-rate mechanism last autumn. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will be under pressure to make more accommodating noises about when and how Britain might rejoin the mechanism, and to soften his claims that the mechanism has "fault lines". Two reports are understood to deny that the system is structurally unsound.

The weekend meeting will also inaugurate the public battle over the "criteria" laid down in the Maastricht treaty for deciding which states would qualify for a single currency towards the end of the century. Britain, with a Maastricht escape clause from monetary union, stands outside a debate which pits countries such as Belgium and France against the stern Bundesbank and German finance ministry. Belgian ministers are asking for the criteria to be revised, while German central bankers insist that the rules should stay as they are and be strictly observed. A spokesman for the European Commission said yesterday that the treaty's wording need not be interpreted too "mechanically".



Maastricht mayhem: a wounded youth, left, and an injured policeman, right, are carried to safety after battles broke out in Copenhagen following the Danish "Yes" vote. About 200 people blocked roads, overturned vehicles and put up banners proclaiming an "EC-free zone", below



Little has been seen or heard of Jacques Delors, the Commission's president, apart from a brief and formal welcome for the Danish vote. He has spent several months casting around for a grand theme with which to complete his long term at head of the Commission: the search has

been hampered by the volatile sensitivity of the ratification battles in both Britain and Denmark. He is effectively barred from espousing ideas which might frighten doubting voters away from Maastricht.

The reform calls for cuts in Denmark's exceptionally high marginal tax rates, to be financed by new energy and

environmental taxes. Mr Rasmussen said at a presentation to journalists. He said the plan broadly envisaged reducing taxes to between 38 and 58 per cent of income compared with today's 52-68 per cent range within the period 1994-1998. The aim of the reform is to

bring income tax in Denmark more in line with the rest of Europe in the spirit of the single market which took effect in the European Community in January. (Reuter)

Politics lesson, page 10  
Diary, page 18  
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## Kohl claims a modest victory as poll shows Germans shun integration

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND  
SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN PARIS

GERMANY. Spain and France yesterday claimed that, following Denmark's "Yes" vote, the European focus had shifted from Danish voters to the British Parliament.

"I believe it is an encouragement to our friends in Great Britain to vote for the treaty," Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, declared after meeting Felipe González, Spain's prime minister. The Spanish leader — in Germany to receive an award for contributing to European integration — agreed. "I think the vote is a very positive present for John Major."

The French government called for Britain to rejoin the European Monetary System (EMS), adding that, because of the pro-Maastricht vote, Europe was no longer "suspended". Alain Lamassoure, the minister for European affairs, said: "The English must understand that Europe is, for them, a more effective way of dealing with the great, common problems that face us, without British identity ever being brought into question."

It became clear yesterday, however, that German politicians have not convinced their own people of the value of Maastricht or European unity.

The respected Wicket Institute carried out an opinion poll in Germany a week before the referendum but kept the result

secret until it was over. The survey showed that 75 per cent of Germans want to digest the effects of German unification before proceeding to fuller European integration. About 54 per cent thought that all further European integration should be suspended until German unification is complete, and 66 per cent said they hoped the Danes would vote "No" in the referendum; 83 per cent said that Germany should hold a referendum.

There is, however, no chance of that. Parliament passed the Maastricht treaty and all that is required before ratification is a ruling by the Constitutional Court to establish that the treaty does not violate the constitution.

The Wicket poll shows that opposition to Maastricht is surprisingly broad in Germany, but the criticism has not found

much of an outlet in party politics; the objections lodged with the Constitutional Court were framed mainly by the Greens and far-right parties. It is thought unlikely that the court will rule in their favour.

Herr Kohl, aware of the growing Euroscepticism in Germany, emphasised yesterday that his aim was not to create a giant bureaucratic Europe. He said he admired Churchill's Zurich speech of 1946 in which the idea was floated of a United States of Europe.

However, the present programme for European union was not, he said, aiming to be the equivalent of America.

"I find it understandable that people do not want a European superstate — they want to be European but keep their identities as German, French, Italian or Spaniards."

The chancellor shrugged off the British idea that extending the European Community could in some way replace the goal of integration. "Both things have to be high on our agenda — European union and a bigger European home. There is no 'either/or' about this. Deepening and broadening the European Community are not contradictory aims."

He expected that Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway would be admitted to the EC by 1995, on schedule. As for monetary union, it would need "work, lots of hard work" to meet the strict entry criteria.

## Bank chief accused of cooking the book

BY SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH

JACQUES Attali, the controversial head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, yesterday denied improperly using passages from the work of a Nobel prize winner and said he would sue *Le Nouvel Observateur*, the Paris current affairs weekly magazine, for defamation.

M Attali's book *Verbatim*, published last month amid a blaze of favourable publicity, is based on his own observations and conversations with President Mitterrand. These conversations took place during his term as special adviser at the Elysée palace between 1981 and 1986.

But Elie Wiesel, the author and Nobel prize winner, has claimed that some 43 passages in the book, many as long as 20 lines, are in fact quotes from conversations between himself and M Mitter-

rand. None of the passages except four refers to Mr Wiesel. They are under dates ranging only to 1986. The Wiesel-Mitterrand discussions, which are themselves to appear in book form, did not begin until late 1987.

Today's editions of *Le Nouvel Observateur* feature an article which suggests that M Attali may be taken to court by Mr Wiesel for breaching Mr Wiesel's rights in the conversations.

M Attali insisted that, as he had personally been present at all but one of the Mitterrand-Wiesel conversations, he was entitled to use them in his book. He said that he knew the conversations were to be used for a book, but that they had been cut short, and that no contract had been signed.

He also claimed that President Mitterrand had read editing-proofs of his book,



Attali: threatens to sue French magazine

and had raised no objections to the passages being quoted. Odile Jacob, Mr Wiesel's editor, described M Attali's actions as "piracy" and said she believed her client's project had been gravely compromised. But she said that she would leave it to the two

authors concerned to sort out the matter. M Attali yesterday said he would sue the magazine for damage to his reputation.

The flamboyant bank president was accused of "borrowing" from other authors back to 1983, after he published *Histoires du Temps*. Early editions of the book contained passages from the German writer Ernst Jünger, but without quote marks or any indication that they were not the work of M Attali. This was later corrected by the publisher.

The accuracy of M Attali's diary-style account of the early Mitterrand years has also been challenged. Robert Badinter, the former justice minister, disputed an account of a cabinet discussion on illegal immigration, saying the minutes showed that M Attali had misquoted him.

Leading article, page 19

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## Warning issued against 'policy drift' as Clinton tries to avert rebellion

### Think-tank urges swift action by Democrats

By MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Clinton administration could fall into "drift and paralysis" unless it formulates an overall vision of its policies and produces quick results, a leading think-tank said yesterday.

The London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies called the election of Bill Clinton one of the few bright spots in a bleak year. It had restored hope and confidence to the American people, the institute said in an annual report prepared before the recent slump in the president's popularity.

His team had "quickly demonstrated a refreshing will to tackle economic and social problems which had increasingly threatened to disrupt American life and act as a restraint on the necessary US international leadership role". The institute issued a warning, however, that the volatile American public might turn against the president unless the Clinton formula for recovery proved sound. "There will be many who still believe in sacrifice, but somebody else's sacrifice."

The report said Mr Clinton had strengthened American policy on Bosnia-Herzegovina and vigorously backed President Yeltsin — moves that "must be greeted with at least two cheers". But the report, which took no account of the diplomatic impasse on Bosnia, said his team had not yet produced an "over-arching vision" of foreign policy, although some elements such as economic competitiveness, democracy and human rights, were emerging.

The institute argued that there was a better case for United Nations intervention in Bosnia than in Somalia. The UN had to choose which conflicts it could stop and which it could not. "There are simply not enough human and financial resources... to call to account all the inhuman regimes... that are oppressing the weak and the innocent around the world."

Describing 1992 as a year in which "almost everything that can go wrong did go wrong", the report said the UN should intervene only in situations where it could earn "something besides opprobrium". Military leaders were right to be wary of involvement in Bosnia. Even if peace could be imposed, it would collapse as soon as an outside force was withdrawn.

Angola shift: The administration will recognise the Angola government and end 30 years of mostly futile American intervention.



Popularity exercise: Bill Clinton trying to defend as Ron Brown, commerce secretary, prepares to shoot a basket in a game in South-Central Los Angeles

## White House fights to rescue tax plans

■ The president is caught in a bind over his economic policy. If he placates the party rebels, he may succeed only in alienating the big-spending Democratic liberals.

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton headed for Capitol Hill yesterday to try to ward off a potentially disastrous rebellion against his economic plan by conservative and moderate Democrats.

Hours after returning from California, where he had tried to whip up public support for the plan, he was meeting congressmen from his own party in a bid to stop them jumping ship next week. The rebels, who face re-election next year, believe the plan is top-heavy with tax rises and contains no guarantees that the federal deficit will eventually be reduced. They want another \$50-\$60 billion (£33-£40 billion) in spending cuts, legally binding caps on social security and other huge "entitlement" programmes, and the abandonment of the proposed new energy tax.

More than 60 of them attended a Tuesday night meeting with Howard Baker, the

White House congressional liaison officer, suggesting they might muster the 42 votes required to defeat the plan if all Republican congressmen vote against it. Such a defeat on a key element of Mr Clinton's legislative programme would deal a severe blow to his presidency and must be averted. However, the White House risks alienating big-spending liberal Democrats if it bows to the rebels' demands.

"It's clear there's going to have to be some compromise because there are not the votes today for the tax bill," said Dave McCurdy, a rebel who last year seconded Mr Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination and was one of his key campaign advisers.

The White House insisted yesterday that it felt "very good" about the legislation's chances. But with public support for the economic plan



Foley: has called for unity of Democrats

slipping, Tom Foley, the House Speaker, admitted he was concerned about getting the legislation past a united Republican opposition. "We need all the factions of the Democratic Party to unite for that purpose," he said as Democratic whips took head counts on the floor.

Mr Foley indicated that he might compromise on the rebels' demand for separate votes on their amendments, but Al Gore, the vice-president, flatly condemned the idea of capping entitlement programmes. "We oppose it unequivocally and very

strongly," he said. At present the plan contains \$246 billion in new taxes and \$97 billion in spending cuts.

Assuming the House does approve the plan, it still faces a serious challenge in the Senate, where key Democrats on the finance committee want to kill the proposed new \$72 billion energy tax.

While Mr Clinton was meeting Democratic congressmen on Capitol Hill yesterday, one of his nominees was facing tough confirmation hearings before the Senate judiciary committee over his membership of an all-white country club. Webster Hubbell, an old Arkansas friend of the president's who has been named associate attorney-general, told the committee he had resigned from the Little Rock club to avoid the appearance of a "lack of sensitivity". He insisted he had tried for years to recruit black members but without success. Joseph Biden, the committee chairman, said he had received many letters about Mr Hubbell's nomination but personally had no problems with Mr Hubbell's record.

Compromise move: The row over homosexuals serving in the US military could be

resolved through a compromise offered by a Democratic congressman. Although it might be endorsed by the White House and Congress, homosexual rights groups denounced the proposal, which falls short of the total lifting of the ban that had been demanded by Mr Clinton in his first days in office (Wolfgang Münchau writes).

Barney Frank, a Massachusetts Democrat and gay rights advocate, has proposed that homosexuals should be allowed to serve in the military but not to admit their homosexuality while on-duty: off-duty they would be able to do so. It is highly unlikely that Congress would approve a total lifting of the ban.

Mr Frank has admitted that "this is the best we can do, given the way the political forces have arrayed themselves". He said he regretted that an immediate lifting of the ban was not possible. "The rule will be: on-duty, in uniform, on-base, in effect you're asexual." The White House, while disagreeing with discrimination in principle, should welcome the idea because it would, at least temporarily, end a debate which has blighted the presidency in its first months.

## Teachers' strike threat forces de Klerk to yield

By RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

URGENT moves are expected to be made by the South African government in the next 48 hours to save black education from collapse. As President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, prepared to meet in Cape Town yesterday to discuss the issue, there were signs that the government would yield to demands by teachers and students.

Up to 80,000 black, coloured and Indian teachers, members of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union, are due to begin an indefinite national strike on Monday for a 30 per cent pay rise and a halt to retrenchments. At the same time, the ANC-affiliated Congress of South African Students plans to launch a campaign of mass protest, including occupation of empty and under-used white schools.

First among the steps to be announced by the government will be the establishment of a national education forum. It will include the government, student and teacher organisations and the ANC-affiliated National Education Co-ordinating Committee, and will work on the principle of consensus. Its formation has been one of the key demands of black education bodies for months, but the government has insisted it would regard such a body as purely advisory.

Piet Marais, minister of national education, said yesterday that the government was determined to establish the representative body within the next few weeks. He indicated that one of its priorities would be resolving the compulsory 48 rand (£10) matriculation examination fee, which has provoked destructive demonstrations by black pupils.

Mr Marais said the govern-

ment could not abolish the fees unilaterally. "While we are now moving towards establishing a forum, any possibility of scrapping exam fees should be referred to the forum involving all the players," he said. "Presently, I am being blamed for restructuring education unilaterally."

The National Peace Committee, set up under an accord signed by the government, the ANC and other political parties, is believed to have helped to persuade the government to change tack. Mr de Klerk has been under pressure from National Party hawks not to give way to the teachers' and students' demands. It is maintained that, if the government yields over fees, other issues will be raised immediately as part of the political agenda.

Police said yesterday there was no evidence to support theories of a widespread right-wing conspiracy behind the April 10 assassination of Chris Hani, the South African Communist Party leader.

"We believe that only individuals were involved and they were acting as individuals. There is no proof whatsoever that Mr Hani's death came as a result of a widespread plot by right-wingers," Police Brigadier Frans Malherbe said. "There will not be any more arrests. We have all of those we believe were major players."

Janusz Walus, a Polish immigrant, Clive Derby-Lewis, a leading right-wing politician, and his Australian-born wife, Gaye, have been charged with the murder of the former guerrilla leader. Police said earlier they suspected that the murder, which unleashed a wave of black anger, was part of a right-wing conspiracy.

Commander George Churchill-Coleman of Scotland Yard, who was called in to observe the police investigation, has left South Africa.



## UN role in Timor trial questioned

By DAVID WATTS

INDONESIA has accused a United Nations special envoy of interfering in the trial of Xanana Gusmao, the East Timor rebel leader.

Ali Alatas, the foreign minister, has promised to investigate allegations that Amos Wako, the former Kenyan attorney-general, persuaded Mr Xanana to take a tougher, more confrontational attitude at his trial. Bourros Bourros Ghalil, the UN secretary-general, has made the resolution of Indonesia's illegal occupation of East Timor a key aim of his term of office.

The allegations were made after Mr Xanana, at his trial on May 5, refused assistance from Sudjono, his defence lawyer, and also insisted that he be allowed to read his personal statement in Portuguese, since he has an inadequate command of the Indonesian language.

Herotimus Godang, the presiding judge, halted the trial on Monday and stopped Mr Xanana from continuing to read his statement, calling it full of irrelevant political theory.

The International Commission of Jurists said yesterday that Indonesia had violated Mr Xanana's human rights. Amnesty International has called for the speech to be released and for Indonesia to open the trial to international scrutiny.

Mr Xanana, 46, had previously been so compliant that some supporters suspected that he had been drugged or tortured.

## Black woman to take over as America's poet laureate

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

RITA Dove, a Pulitzer prize-winning writer, has been named as America's next poet laureate, the first black poet to be appointed to the post and, at 40, the youngest.

Ms Dove won a Pulitzer poetry prize in 1987 for *Thomas and Beulah*, a collection based on recollections of her grandparents and strongly redolent of black American history. Describing her as "a younger poet of distinction and versatility", James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, said that Ms Dove was "an outstanding representative of a new and richly variegated generation of American poets".

Between 1937 and 1986 the Library of Congress appointed only poetry consultants, but in 1987 the position was elevated and dignified with the title of laureate, reflecting the British honour. Previous American poet laureates include Robert Penn Warren, Joseph Brodsky and the present incumbent, Mona Van Duyn. Unlike his British counterpart, the post does not require the holder to compose poetry for state occasions; indeed, in return for the \$35,000 (£22,875) salary, Ms

Dove has few tasks other than to offer advice on literary questions and promote poetry to the public.

Born in Akron, Ohio, Ms Dove is Commonwealth Professor of English at Virginia University and has published a novel and a collection of short stories in addition to four volumes of poetry.

Ms Dove's poetry has few frills, as shown in this extract from *Mississippi*, a meditation on the river and its place in black American life, published in *Grace Notes*, a 1989



Dove: "finally the poet is being recognised"

collection of her work: *In the beginning was the dark moon and creek, a sidewheel moving through...*

*Thicker then, scent of lilac, scent of thyme;*

*slight hairs on a wrist*

*lying down in sweat.*

The appointment of Ms Dove, who takes office in October as the seventh laureate, is further evidence of the success of black American poetry. The choice of Maya Angelou to write an inaugural poem for President Clinton was described yesterday by Ms Dove as a breakthrough for black poetry. "I really did feel this incredible shiver of hope," she said. "Finally, after many, many years, the poet is being recognised."

Although the laureateship is considered the highest honour in American poetry, it is not universally coveted, and the job of promoting poetry to a television-soaked public can be onerous. According to *The Washington Post*, when asked if she thought the job should run for two years rather than one, Ms Van Duyn said: "If someone did ask me... I would scream and run as fast as possible in the other direction."

## Iran changes tack on rights

By PETER FEUTHERADE

IRAN's parliament this week set up its own human rights committee, with 12 members of the majlis and five non-MPs forming the executive council. Its role is intended to be "national but non-governmental", Tehran radio said.

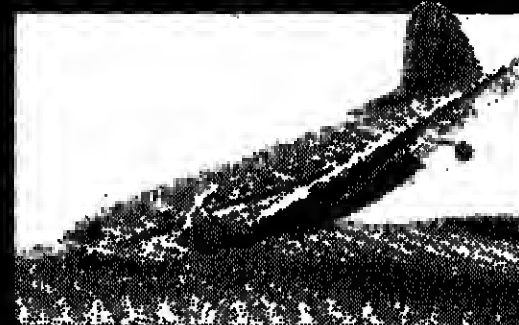
Membership of the committee is open to all those interested and its aim will be "to ensure proper respect for human rights", according to Said Raja i-Khorasani, a Tehran MP who heads the committee. He said the body would investigate and prepare reports on the state of human rights in Iran and abroad and "offer suggestions and advice for resolving any existing problems". He insisted that it would not be linked with parliament or government, and would receive its funds from "interested parties and donations from the people".

The appointment of Dr Raja i-Khorasani suggests that the new committee's primary role will be to counter international criticism of Iran's human rights record. Iranian leaders maintain that Iran does implement human rights, but within the context of Islamic values, which are not properly appreciated in the West.

Amnesty International said this week that it hoped the committee would examine the basic human rights safeguards contained in important treaties signed by Iran, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to bring Iranian law and practices into conformity with these minimum standards.

Last year Iran expelled all 15 staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and a United Nations report accused it of torturing prisoners and excessive use of the death penalty. Peter Feutherade works for the BBC World Service.

## FOR A PIECE OF THE ACTION...



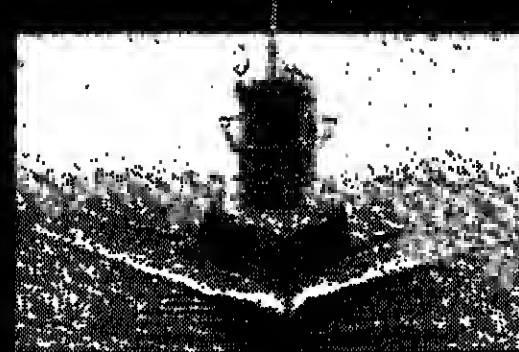
The adrenalin starts  
to pump...



...your heart races...



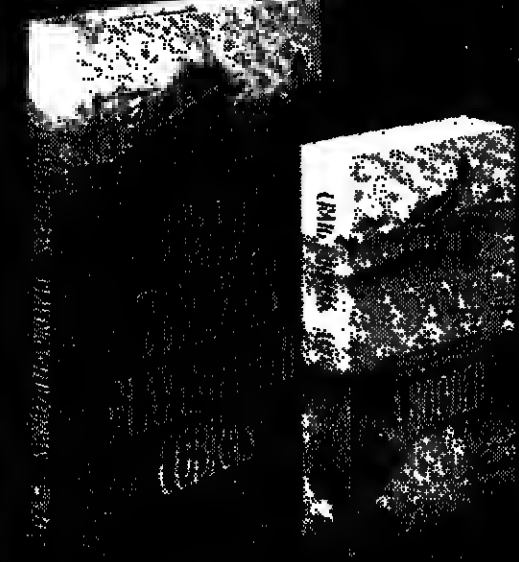
...your mouth goes  
dry...



...you're reading another  
hard-hitting, tension-filled,  
brilliantly-crafted thriller  
from...

# CRAIG THOMAS

Bestselling author of



NEW IN HARDBACK NEW IN PAPERBACK

HarperCollins Publishers



# Why I won't buy this doughnut

The changes planned for Derbyshire and our other counties could store up decades of rancour, warns Matthew Parris.

Derbyshire is nowhere near Crickwood and I am no Alan Coren. I have neither the wit nor the ambition to place my own county next to the marmalade on the nation's breakfast tables. But something is imminent in Derbyshire, and I need to warn you that other counties may follow. Derbyshire is about to be exploded.

"How spectacular!" I hear you cry. Sadly, local government reorganisation is not like that. There are few smash-bang-wallops in local government, only whumpers, and it is difficult to interest London in provincial whimping. We prefer our catastrophes loud, sudden and Westminster-based. It is the big Commons "oops!" which grabs our attention, the parliamentary road accident. Devaluations, leaks, resignations... the alarm is sounded, the cock-up obvious. Newbury, "black Wednesday", David Mellor's troubles... all shared the "oops!" factor. We knew at first sight. We sensed the drama, heard the breaking glass. Danger lies, if anywhere, in overreaction: time can heal.

But there is another sort of calamity. No loud report, no wailing or gnashing of teeth. A decision is made, a course adopted which seems sensible in the circumstances. Only gradually does the cost become clear, the pain grow. Such mistakes can prove to be among the most dreadful: the strangulation of private rented housing, the 1970s reorganisation of local government, the mid-century construction of vast, homogenous council estates... There was no big "oops!", or not at the outset: only a long and rising groan as the years went by. All too often — and it is a typical feature — these slow-burning catastrophes are ideologically inspired: dazzled by theory or sold on a plan, politicians turn their eyes from common sense. "It seemed a good idea at the time."

The reorganisation of local government needs watching with the eyes of a hawk. It's a bright idea and just the sort of thing that can go horribly wrong. Abolishing Cleveland or Avon will bring few tears and many seaside cheers at party conferences. Michael Howard's bid to reduce two layers to one is calculated and marketable, for the theory makes sense and Howard is skilful. Yelps will be kept to a

minimum, obvious banana-skins avoided.

So expect no big bang and no flying glass. Yet if we are not careful we may be storing up for ourselves decades of rancour. Plans are being hatched now over which, 30 years hence, people could still be wringing their hands.

Take Derbyshire. My county is in Mr Howard's "first wave" of recommendations for a new structure, and we expect initial proposals soon. We have a shrewd idea of what they will contain. To a roll of drums, the "doughnut solution" will be unveiled. The city of Derby will be removed from the shire county and

Derbyshire, you see, does not exist. Never has. There are at least three Derbyshires

launched as a local authority on its own. The rest of the county — village, town and country — will be lumped together as a huge new local authority with a hole, Derby city, in the middle. The hole will do fine from the word go. The doughnut promises eternal misery.

I'll sketch out why — but let me at once promise not to bore you. You do not wish to know where Chesterfield stands in relation to Buxton, Bakewell or Melbourn; you have no time to ponder local allegiance in Clay Cross or the world view from Hartington. I have no ambition to enlighten you.

Let me sum up, in a couple of paragraphs, the type of potential blunder the minister may soon be consulting upon for Derbyshire, not because the details need detain you, but as an example of how a general theory could collide with reality not in the East Midlands alone, but in many other counties.

Derbyshire, you see, does not exist. Never has. There are at least three Derbyshires. There is the city

of Derby; there is Midlands coal mining Derbyshire; and there is bucolic rural Derbyshire, much of it in the Peak District national park.

Now that's an oversimplification of course. There are fields between the coal mines, steelworks near the stately homes. But a glance at the political heat-map — blue in the hills, red on the plains, jumbled in the city — offers a snapshot, blurred but unmistakable, of separate worlds. Look at the questions asked in Parliament and the letters written to ministers by the county's MPs: look at age, class and social profiles; look at patterns of employment. You will see how the map divides. Derbyshire county council has been the lid on a mixed box of biscuits.

Thus far in this century, that has not mattered too much because of the existence of vigorous smaller councils. For us, two-tiered local government has been wasteful but has had at least this: when the county has gone Labour, the hill-tribes of rural Derbyshire grumble, but we have our own district or borough councils to plan our housing, organise our rubbish, plan our parks and gardens, and nurture our most conspicuous local industry, tourism. When the county goes Conservative, working-class Clay Cross, industrial Chesterfield and the beasts of Bolsover fume, but there is no question of Tory lady councillors from the hills and manors trying to run the community centre in Swadlowgate, liaise with industry in Chesterfield, or set council house rents in Clay Cross. This Derbyshire was once a string of mining communities, and still has that flavour. Its Labour-dominated local councils are truly local and look after it, for the most part, rather well.

Parts of the county are more mixed — Edwina Currie's South Derbyshire, for instance, Amber Valley or Erewash, and their district councils may swing Labour or Conservative; but all share this: they are small enough to understand their people. And, by "small" I do not mean impracticably tiny; my own Derbyshire Dales district is 40 miles long.

The two-tier system has guarded communities from the strife of being run by people who do not know them. Yet it does in places duplicate, and Michael Howard is right to want to end that. But is dissolving the lower tier into the upper one



Derbyshire in 1857: from mining village to the Peak district, the area remains extraordinarily varied

what he meant to achieve? True, the shire explodes and Derby flies into space. But what is left, "son of Derbyshire", is a county-like authority short, now, of the small platoons Tories are supposed to cherish. Son of Derbyshire will have many of the worst features of a big, amorphous county authority, without the compensating localness and balance of our old district councils, which would be abolished.

So what would we prefer? Mr Howard could be forgiven for remarking that we cannot agree. We agree only that two authorities — doughnut and hole — are too few. How many, then, can we afford? Four? Five? Six? Status quo? We only agree that we want more than

being allowed to squabble about boundaries. Howard can divide and rule if he wants: the doughnut is at least simple.

Disagreements like this will lame the argument for a many-sectioned map in other English counties too. We may find that the crudest proposal wins, becoming a standard model: (1) Give the cities and largest towns their independence; (2) Yoke together huge and unrelated lumps of what lies between them into some meaningless son-of-county authority. It would take all Howard's skill to resist this. I profoundly hope he does.

Otherwise, watch out, minister.

The day could come when the phrase "the Michael Howard reorganisation of local government" resonates through the next 20 years as "the Peter Walker reorganisation of local government" did through the last 20. Peter never quite recovered.

I warn you that you will not hear much of an "oops": more a sort of squelch. For the doughnut is on the march. So observe the fate of the Derbyshire Dales district council with beady eyes. Mr Coren: learn to cherish the High Peak borough council. They are coming for Derbyshire Dales today. Tomorrow they may come for Crickwood. And it may seem like a good idea, at the time.

## A slow train, please

President

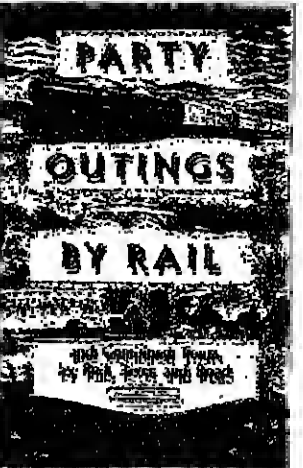
Mitterrand is on the wrong track

See Beautiful Britain by Train, the faded fifties posters used to proclaim. No chance of that now — trains hurtle along at around 100 mph, and all you see is a blur outside. It is like living that extraordinary speeded-up film of 20 years ago — London to Brighton in four minutes.

President Mitterrand, with gentle Gallic mockery, could not resist poking fun at the hapless Channel tunnel traveller, condemned on reaching Albion to meander through the Kent countryside, his slow-moving train affording ample opportunity for daydreaming. But if travellers looked up from their laptops they would see some of the most beautiful landscape in Britain: the Weald of Kent, the hop gardens and oast houses, the orchards and villages dating from Saxon times.

Costly research has shown that passengers like nothing better than gazing out of the window. Perhaps that is the attraction of the steam buff's private lines — leafy havens of nostalgia where you can watch the butterflies go by as cloud-leists of steam dissolve into the Gainsborough sky. But it is not only the Keighley and Worth or the North Yorkshire Moors railways that promise their passengers a scenic feast. British Rail services convey their "customers" through much of Britain that has been unspoiled since the Victorian navvies tipped the last barrowful of earth on the embankment. The trouble is, few of us notice nowadays.

True, the advertising men have made the most of the best bits: the lonely Sprinter lost on Rannoch Moor or the Cornish



Not so fast: an early poster

Riviera snaking its way along the coast as the waves lap the line at Dawlish.

Trains perform so slowly here. They also take their time over the mighty Forth bridge or Brunel's Saltash bridge. But in hundreds of other places, the observant traveller could wish for a more leisurely pace. The East Coast main line also hugs the shore in Northumberland, but it is hard to see the gulls from the cramped reclining seats of an InterCity 225.

As trains on the West Coast main line race north from Euston, they come to the delightful stretch where road, motorway and Grand Union canal run parallel and where it would be nice to linger a little by the canal, zig-zagging from left to right of the railway.

It seems unfair to demand the BR slow down when it has spent so much time and money trying to speed up. No one can complain about the ugly metal poles that flash past every few seconds on the route to Edinburgh: were they not erected, on time and on budget, a few years ago, solely to allow the electrified route to compete with the proud French TGV? And if you want to appreciate the west country, you can always take the stopping train, instead of the HST from Paddington.

The perfect Mitterrand daydream is not really possible on the best bits of BR: who could do anything than gasp with surprise at the length of the Settle and Carlisle, or peer eagerly out at the bleakness of the moors and mountains on the Far North line to Thurso? Rural, dreamy England is best experienced on less dramatic branchlines, where once the trains rolled along at 55 mph. How about Darsham, on the East Suffolk line, where the name used to be spelled out in roses and the porter would call out "Darshum, Darshum" every time the steam train came to a halt? It is now, alas, an unmanned halt. But at least no TGV rushes through to disturb the rural calm. Try it, President Mitterrand.

MICHAEL BINYON

## Chess board queen

They dress like perennial students, in ragged old cords, T-shirts and scuffed shoes, and they peer myopically out of thick-rimmed glasses. Their pale faces are permanently fettered to the chess boards in semi-darkness at the seaside halls where chess tournaments are held among posters for a Val Dorian concert.

Britain is now the second best in the world at chess. The game is no longer only played seriously by old men and cranks but by an expanding group of young whippersnappers. They stride round the auditoriums making funny clicking noises with their tongues and nodding their heads in nervous jerks. Many are good mathematicians or computer experts; equally, some exceptional players could not add up a telephone number. Their hero is Nigel Short and their aim is to become a grandmaster. But one thing still absent is women.

Women, it seems, just will not play chess. Of course there are a few exceptions, such as Judith Polgar, of Hungary, the highest-ranking female player and the youngest person ever to qualify for the grandmaster title, but apart from the queen, the chess board is bereft of girls. Some analysts say that women do not have the same sense of commitment or passion, that by the age of 13 girls who have shown early promise usually become more interested in a social life. Others say that women do not have the necessary spatial perception.

Harriet Hunt, 15, Britain's brightest girl prodigy, is determined to change "all this nonsense". This month, she beat the former British champion, James Plaskett, wiping him out in 33 moves in the Golden Green quick play. She then scored five points out of six at the Barbican quick play, taking second prize behind Michael Adams, who is ranked the second-best player in Britain after Short. She peers across her chess

At 15, Harriet Hunt is moving rapidly ahead of the boys

board at me at her home in Oxford, surrounded by two bookshelves of chess books, trophies, press cuttings and endless photographs of her beaming above the black and white pieces. Has she ever felt pressured by her parents to succeed? "Never. In fact my father has got quite bored of chess. I don't think he would care if he never saw a chess

board again," she says. Her mother stayed in the kitchen throughout the interview. Hunt learnt chess when she was six, but was not impressed. "I thought it was just another board game, and Risk and Buccaneer were much more exciting." At nine, she went to Oxford High School for Girls, one of the few girls schools to have a chess club. "It was compulsory and we all got addicted, playing in the lunch hours and under our desks. I began to realise that I was actually quite good."

She would probably have passed on to the next craze, perhaps to become a jacks or skipping champion if it had not been for her younger brother, Adam.

"He kept teasing us at home, so we had to take him to a club and then he started going to competitions. Everyone assumed I wasn't interested, but I thought, 'I know I am as good as him, why don't I try?'"

Adam had already won five trophies but Harriet was not deterred. "I wanted to show the boys that I was something to be reckoned with." Then she proceeds to reel off her last five years in competitions, remembering every score, all other competitors and offering to tell me the moves.

There are more than 288 billion possibilities beyond the fourth move for both black and white in chess: Hunt sees this as a challenge. "You don't have to be wildly clever just to be able to spot patterns and have a good memory. But you do have to be a little bit selfish and really want to deprive the opponent of the pleasure of winning. Girls are never confident enough, so that is one point I'm working on," she says with total poise.

Her next move is to make the British women's team for the chess Olympiad next year and, yes, she would like to be a professional like Nigel Short or Garry Kasparov. But she is not like Bobby Fischer, who once said, "All I want to do, ever, is play chess". She knows that most self-styled professionals are ex-students living with their parents and only make enough on the chess circuit to cover expenses. If she does not make it, she will become a gardener.

Is she normal? "My friends and I don't talk about chess. They wouldn't understand the language. But then they are into sport and music and I'm not good at that. I don't play every night and I never feel a freak. I'd like to go to university. I am not interested in shopping and boys and things, but I don't think I would be if I didn't play chess."

Just occasionally, I think, "wouldn't it be wonderful to spend the weekends going on bike rides rather than all these competitions?" But I would be something special; it makes me feel different. I get to travel the world and secretly, I'm quite pleased there are not too many other girls.

ALICE THOMSON



Harriet Hunt: 'I wanted to show the boys'

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## The problem in an antibiotic, helping ease the discomfort of pregnancy, and a vision of danger

## MP's yellow peril



BILLS are rarely paid with pleasure, but Mr Ralph Howell, the MP for Norfolk North, who seems to personify John Bull

both in appearance and character, took particular delight recently in paying one which had been addressed to the executors of the late Mr Howell MP.

Mr Howell is now back in the House, slightly thinner but physically and mentally as vital as he was before his illness in the winter, an illness which nearly deprived his constituents of an excellent member and the country of one of the voices of traditional conservatism.

The mistake by his creditor is easy to understand. Few who saw Mr Howell after he had lapsed into multi-system failure with his kidneys not working and with such gross liver failure that his complexion was as yellow as a

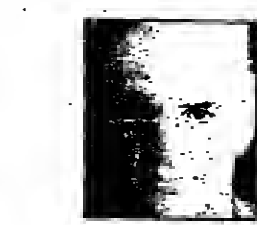
Norwich City football shirt would have believed that his lungs, heart, circulation, liver and kidneys would have all recovered, and that three months later he would be back at Westminster. Mr Howell was a victim of this year's flu epidemic but because he was anxious to vote, he continued to go through the lobbies, rather than to bed. Pneumonia developed and with it heart and circulatory failure. The kidneys, deprived of an adequate circulation, closed down so that the antibiotic erythromycin, which had been given to treat the pneumonia, accumulated in the system.

Erythromycin is a remarkably safe drug provided that liver function is good, and renal function adequate, but if they are not it can increase in the blood to the point at which serious damage to the liver, pancreas and central nervous system can be caused. It is an added misery to somebody already in extremis to find that the

high levels of circulating erythromycin can, as they did in Mr Howell's case, give rise to a sensorial deafness and tinnitus, so that the patient is even deprived of the consolation of being able to hear clearly the reassuring voices of his family.

Excess erythromycin also damages the patient's mind so that to the delirium of pneumonia there is added an erythromycin-induced psychosis. Erythromycin can heighten imagination and distort reason, but Mr Howell's constituents should be reassured that, even as his mind hovered between reality and reverie, their MP's thoughts were not only on the anticipated day of judgment but on his anxieties over the National Health Service reforms and how they would be affected by them.

Although erythromycin toxicity is uncommon it is very adequately described in *Martindale's Pharmacopoeia*, the thirtieth edition of which is published this week. No doctor should be without its nearly 2,500 pages; it was, for instance, very reassuring to be able to tell the Howell family that



MEDICAL BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas Stuttford

Martindale's had decreed that the deafness and confusion caused by erythromycin would be transient. It does, however, warn that once erythromycin sensitivity has been induced it can occur again - even if exposed to a very small dose.

## Comfortable pregnancy

TWO important pieces of advice which were given recently by doctors from Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, and which may affect the way pregnancies are

managed in the future, have been reported in *General Practitioner* magazine.

Hyperemesis, the excess vomiting of pregnancy which can be a danger to the patient's health, should, it was said, be treated early with anti-emetic drugs. So anxious are doctors not to give drugs unnecessarily in pregnancy that women are being deprived of treatment which might improve their health as well as their sense of wellbeing. Dr Michael de Swiet, a consultant physician to Queen Charlotte's, said that although frequent small meals and plenty of fluids should be the first treatment to be tried if vomiting continued, it was perfectly acceptable for GPs to prescribe anti-emetic drugs.

The other recommendation has been made following an extensive survey of pregnancies. The study has shown that the conservative approach to induction of labour which has become more fashionable over the past few years could be damaging to the baby. The delivery of all babies at or before 41 weeks would cut perinatal

## A height for sore eyes



SNOW blindness, which so grievously affected the climber, Harry Taylor, is unrelated to any oxygen lack he might have suffered on Mount Everest. Snow blindness is a term commonly used to describe the damage which excess exposure to ultraviolet light can inflict on the cornea, the transparent tissue which covers the pupil.

Normally, the prominence of the forehead, the eyebrows and the eyelashes protects the eyes from the rays of the overhead sun, but when a person is near a reflecting surface, whether water, a bright sandy beach or a snow-covered landscape, the ultraviolet rays are reflected upwards and strike the eye from below. High altitudes, where the ultraviolet light is stronger, accentuate the problem. Sunbathing by lying on the back also deprives the eyes of their natural shade.

In sun blindness the cornea becomes swollen and acutely painful, the eyes water profusely and the vision through the damaged cornea is blurred. Further exposure to light increases the excruciating pain so that the eyes need to be bandaged. Fortunately, the symptoms last only a matter of hours.

Another form of impaired vision, but not usually blindness, is caused by small retinal haemorrhages which can affect climbers' eyes at high altitudes. Fortunately the damage from this is usually temporary.

## False face of caring

The conviction of Beverley Allitt has highlighted a rare form of child abuse. Jeremy Laurance reports

Six-year-old Kay was subjected to prolonged torture by doctors at the instigation of her mother. In the course of her short life she was admitted to hospitals in Yorkshire 12 times, underwent seven major X-ray procedures, six examinations under anaesthetic and was treated with eight antibiotics, vaginal pessaries and other creams. Sixteen consultants were involved in her care and laboratories cultured her urine more than 150 times before they discovered that it was her mother who was ill.

Kay was the first patient in the world to be identified as a victim of Munchausen syndrome by proxy, the disorder that turned nurse Beverley Allitt from a sensitive carer to a serial killer. It is one of the strangest known to medicine.

Rare, but deadly, Munchausen syndrome by proxy is a form of child abuse in which doctors are enlisted in a game of clinical hide-and-seek. The perpetrators are usually mothers, often with a background in nursing, who fabricate symptoms for their children making them appear ill, apparently as a way of gaining attention. (In plain Munchausen syndrome, sufferers feign illness themselves to obtain treatment. Allitt suffered from this first.) The subsequent investigations, always uncomfortable and often

painful, may last years. Nearly one in ten ends in death. Kay, whose case was described in the *Lancet* in August 1977 by Professor Roy Meadow of St James' University Hospital, Leeds, the leading expert on the syndrome, was the first of hundreds since recorded in the medical journals, but remains typical. She had been referred to the Seacroft hospital in Leeds with foul smelling, bloody urine. The strange feature of her condition was the way the infections seemed to clear up in a few hours only to return later.

Hospital staff noticed that all the abnormal urine specimens were collected by the mother and considered whether she might be tampering with them. With hindsight it is difficult to grasp how big and brave a leap of the imagination this required. It ran counter to all received wisdom to suggest that a loving, caring mother might be deliberately prolonging her child's agony. But with the help of the Yorkshire police forensic laboratory staff were finally able to confirm that the mother had been mixing her own urine, contaminated with menstrual blood, with her daughter's.

In his account of the case, Professor Meadow described several aspects that were to become distinguishing features of the condition. The mother was concerned and loving in her relationship with Kay yet "not quite as worried about the possible cause of the illness as were the doctors". She was pleasant, co-operative and appreciative of good medical care which encouraged the doctors to try all the harder. She and her daughter flourished on the ward as if they belonged there and thrived on the attention staff gave to them.

Kay had been a long awaited baby for which her mother had taken a fertility drug, but after the birth she felt that her husband was more interested in the child than in her. Her daughter's mysterious illness gave her a status in the hospital that was denied her outside.

Subsequent cases have re-



The world's biggest liar: Baron Munchausen, played by John Neville in the 1989 film

vealed the varied ways in which mothers (and a few fathers) have fabricated symptoms for their children. They have dipped thermometers in hot drinks, administered sedatives or tranquilisers and used caustic chemicals to produce skin rashes. Some have suffocated their children while in hospital, provoking a crisis in which the hospital "crash" resuscitation team is called and they become the focus of sympathy and concern.

Often the boundary between reality and fantasy is blurred and mothers may believe in the fictitious illness they have invented. In one case, a girl was made to sleep on the back of an upturned wardrobe clad in aluminium foil and tissue paper in order to avoid contact with substances to which the mother

considered her allergic. In another, a boy whose mother believed he had spina bifida remained confined to a wheelchair and unable to walk at the age of 22 even though his legs and back were normal.

Motives may be as varied as the symptoms. For some mothers, their child's illness brought them closer to their husbands while for others it seemed to provide a welcome distraction from home difficulties. Some mothers seemed to thrive on the wards, bustling round helping the nurses and other mothers and forming close relationships with the junior doctors. For others it was a bizarre game in which they matched themselves against the best specialists and hospitals they could find. The preponderance of ex-nurses among those affected and the way in which they thrived on the wards lends support to the notion that the desire to nurse and be nursed are closely linked, says Professor Meadow.

In some cases, parents have become minor celebrities in their own neighbourhoods as a result of their child's illness. One mother whose child was investigated in different hospitals over a six-month period received £57 collected by the local church, a new pushchair, fridge and washing machine from the social services department, and £250 collected by other parents whose children had been treated on the same ward. Parents who appear to be enjoying the hospital to an unnatural degree - going to the nurses' disco or staying to cook meals for the doctors at night - may present a warning sign.

The most striking finding, however, remains that parents cannot always be believed. These cases contain a warning for doctors who tend to match every symptom with a test that they may be at risk of battering a child nearly to death with investigations.

"We may teach, and I believe should teach, that mothers are always right," Professor Meadow wrote in the *Lancet* in 1977, "but at the same time we must recognise that when mothers are wrong they can be terribly wrong."

## Can life begin at 40?

"I would have happily adopted, but in our area, we're too old." Ann Barker, a successful woman in public relations, is 44: she is waiting for an egg donor to give her the baby she longs for. Yet she herself was adopted, and by "old" parents. Her mother was 50, her father older. "It annoys me so much," she says. "I was very happy, but everything about adoption has changed."

Ann's problem is that she waited too long to get married - and then suffered a premature menopause. "Some people might think, 'Bloody carer woman, serve her right!' But if you don't meet the right man, why marry? I held out for the best. And the first thing we wanted to do was have children."

"I started missing periods, thinking I might be pregnant - and then went to see a doctor. She said the nerve to say, 'Oh, God, surely you don't want more children at your age?' I said I had none and she muttered something about being lucky."

"Finally, I was told I'd had a premature menopause. So that was it. I thought I'm damned if I'm going to cry in front of this woman, so I went and had a weep on my own."

Like many older women, Ann did not realise that even though she was producing eggs before her early menopause, they were rather past their sell-by date. After 35, a woman's fertility drops sharply. "My husband and I were terribly upset," she says. "But even though he's a very kind and loving person, I don't think any man can quite understand how it feels. I just felt dead inside when I was told."

Ann and her husband saw a private doctor who did con-



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

firm the diagnosis, but offered to refer her to the hospital's assisted conception unit. "And here I am, waiting for an egg to be donated."

Ann has been on the list of the Lister Hospital for 18 months. There are around 500 other women waiting for similar treatment. People on the waiting list are encouraged to find someone who is willing to donate an egg. If you find a donor, your treatment is given priority, though the egg you receive will not be from "your" donor, to avoid future problems.

But getting someone to donate an egg is extremely difficult. First, despite the fact that the donor, who must be a mother under 35, gets satisfaction from helping other women have babies, the actual procedure itself is not simple. It involves about three months of tests and a final minor operation, when the eggs are removed.

"Considering men are paid to donate sperm, it is all so unfair," says Ann. "Women are paid nothing except expenses to donate eggs, a far more elaborate procedure involving a general anaesthetic and lots of screening."

As if the procedure were not barrier enough to people stepping forward, there are other problems. The subject is taboo.

When Ann wanted to put her official egg donation poster up in a local mother and baby centre, she was told it was "not policy" to put up those kinds of posters.

When she struck on the idea of asking women who were waiting to be sterilised if she could pay for their operation privately, on condition they gave a last few eggs at the same time, the scheme met with a general disapproval. It would be seen as touting - and, indeed, it would involve a kind of payment. Eggs have to be donated completely altruistically, so, at the Lister, but no personal advertising is allowed, either.

This is partly why Ann is unable to use her real name. "But I also have to hide it because people's reactions are so different when you're 44 and not 25. It's not thought nice to want a baby at 44, even though lots of women do get pregnant at that age. And if we were successful, I don't want everyone knowing." In many other European countries, Ann would get this treatment on the equivalent of the National Health. But apart from a couple of health service hospitals, women here not only cannot advertise, they have to pay for treatment - around £2,500.

"I know it's someone else's egg, but the fact it grows inside you and you can put your hand on your tummy and feel it kicking about it makes it feel like yours," Ann says. "My husband says that if I got pregnant, his mother would be sure to know. I said if she ever, ever said anything, I would say, 'It's a blessing.' And, indeed, it would be."

● If you are a mother under 35, you could donate eggs. Contact the Lister Hospital, (071-259 9238) for more information.

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# Touts cash in on Palace tickets

As Buckingham Palace opens to the public, Peter Victor reports on the scramble for places and how some people may be exploiting the system

Ticket touts are asking up to £100 for £8 tickets to tour Buckingham Palace, cashing in on the huge demand for a tour of the Queen's hitherto private home. According to leading tour operators, who have been unable to get tickets, the touts are asking mark-ups of more than 1,000 per cent.

The government announced this week that it plans to bring in legislation to curb touts after concern about the sale of tickets for the Palace and for last weekend's FA Cup final. Robert Key, the heritage minister, said in the House that Palace officials were confident there would not be a ticket touting problem. The opposition, meanwhile, is pressing hard for legislation to curb the activities of the touts as soon as possible.

The Palace household has dealt so far only with groups and companies wanting to block-book visits to the Palace for 25 people or more. For them, the Palace has reserved 30,000 tickets, 10 per cent of the total. The rest of the tickets will be available only to the queuing public.

All the group tickets have now been allocated, most of them after telephone enquiries. Those granted visits are being sent vouchers, which they will hand over when they turn up with their group. Unless the touts are offering places on group excursions having obtained vouchers, the Palace cannot understand how they can be offering tickets for the tours.

Many operators were unlucky in their pre-booking applications, which were dealt with, the Palace says, on a first-come, first-served basis. They have had to scrap plans for package holidays incorporating tours of the Palace. For them, the touts are a particularly sore point.

Incoming tour operators, represented by the European Tour Operators Association (ETOA) and the British Incoming Tour Operators Association, are angry about the booking system, which they describe as a fiasco.

"It has not been at all as we'd like," an ETOA spokesman says. "Some tour operators who applied for tickets haven't heard anything from Buckingham Palace. Hopefully next year things will be better organised. Several people have been approached by ticket touts offering the tickets for between £50 and £100."

David Heathfield, data manager of Gulliver's Travels, received a call from a man who said he could supply tickets at these prices: "We've got massive interest in these tickets from abroad and we haven't been able to secure any. To have that situation and then have someone call up saying they've got tickets for £50 or £100 just adds insult to injury." The company had not bothered to make further enquiries from the tout.

Gulliver's Travels, which caters for about 2,000 visiting groups a year, is still getting scores of calls from overseas groups wanting to visit the Palace. "I can't believe the interest," Mr Heathfield says. "When we heard about it, we knew it was going to be one of the biggest things since Russia opened up to visitors."

The Palace will be opened in August and September during the Queen's traditional break at Balmoral. The guided tour will include the state dining room, the Palace picture gallery and the throne room. Successful queuers will be allocated an entrance time when they buy their ticket.

A close eye will then be kept on them as they wait. "They will be in the royal parks area," the Palace says, "and there are rules about what people can do there — and what they are and are not allowed to do."

The Royal Household hopes to raise about £30 to £40 million over the next five years to go towards the restoration costs of fire damage at Windsor Castle. Tours of the castle will also be available at £3 each.

Demand for the Palace tickets has been boosted by the announcement that they will be available for a five-year trial period: many people believe that should the scheme not be renewed, they might miss a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Tom Perdy, Labour MP for Stalybridge and Hyde, says he has raised the matter of touts with the prime minister and has received a written response saying that legislation will be introduced as soon as possible.

"I'd like legislation now and the Labour party will be trying to put an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill as it passes through committee and the House. The Commons clerk says it may be possible to do this."



Lady in waiting: visitors to the Palace must either be part of a block booking or queue up on the day for a limited number of £8 tickets

Visitors are opting to stay in serviced apartments, which are cheaper and just like home

A new phenomenon is causing a headache to London's leading hotels — the serviced apartment.

At least 70 buildings in central London now provide more than 4,000 rooms for letting to both foreign and British visitors who want privacy, and the ability to entertain as they wish. In high quality apartments at prices well below those charged by traditional hotels.

The Apartment Service (081-748 4207) has been set up to market the apartments, mainly for stays of longer than a week. Charles McCrow, the managing director of the company, says that the average price of a fully serviced apartment, which includes cleaning and

## Self-catering boom

maintenance, is at least 25 per cent below that of a top quality hotel room.

Mr McCrow says: "Many companies are finding that when they have to send executives to London for several weeks, the cost of a hotel room is in itself prohibitive, but when all the other service costs such as restaurant and bar bills are added, it can be beyond their budget."

"With an apartment they get luxurious accommodation with a separate kitchen and lounge in which the guest can entertain, or not, as they wish. This then enables the company to keep a much closer

control over costs, and by enabling them to cook light meals in their own kitchen and buy wine and drinks from the local off-licence, avoids the high price of many hotel restaurants."

The idea is a throwback to Victorian times when wealthy visitors used to "take rooms". The concept has taken root in America, where such buildings are called "all suite hotels" and on the Continent, where they are known as "residences, appartels or flat-hotels".

In general, prices range from £300 to £1,500 a week for a one-bedroomed apart-

ment, although it would be possible to have at least one other person staying and up to four, if the living room has a sofa bed.

The success of the system has spawned a variety of peripheral service companies, one of which, Room Service, will deliver food from the menus of some of London's leading restaurants to be served in the apartment by a black-tie "butler" for an extra £4.

Mr McCrow says: "The big advantage of an apartment is that meetings can be held in privacy but in comfortable surroundings rather than in a

hotel bedroom." The average length of stay in the apartments is about 14 nights and they are becoming increasingly popular among leisure travellers, especially from North America.

Thomas Cook is about to include the apartments in its brochures and many leading hotels, suffering from the decline in the number of long-stay guests, are considering turning part of their premises over to apartments.

One problem that apartment owners are grappling with is what to do about the handful of guests who may want to stay for more than six months, for they may, under existing rules, be eligible for the council tax.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

## EC may levy VAT on tours

The vexed question of VAT on package tours seems to be rearing its head again. For some time, the European Commission has sought harmonisation among the 12 member countries which deal with the subject in different ways. At the same time the EC appears determined to press for VAT on airline tickets on journeys within the community.

It is being suggested in Brussels that a decision by the European Court of Justice, in a case involving a German tour operator, should lead to all member states applying VAT to those parts of a package which relate to the journeys by air or sea to European holiday destinations.

A number of questions arise, not least whether the non-application of VAT to packages to European countries outside the EC might boost tourism there. As for VAT on conventional airline tickets, what would the EC do to prevent the American airlines which now have opportunities to fly within the EC area, from gaining advantage?

All this suggests that, as in the past, there will be much hot air, but that the proposal will be gently dropped. That is perhaps an unwise assumption.

### VIEWPOINT



Robert McCrindle

tion for one very good reason. Recently, VAT was applied on packages to Europe, but only when the method of travel is by coach. Not surprisingly, the coach operators have complained bitterly and they now demand equal treatment for all. It is difficult to justify the decision against coach travel while ferries and airlines escape the imposition.

Furthermore, the European Directive on Package Travel has just come into force and this extends equal protection to the clients of tour operators who go out of business. It also guarantees the standard of accommodation and prevents exaggerated claims in holiday brochures. Brussels believes, with some justification, that these factors mean that the time is ripe for VAT harmonisation.

At a time when many people make their own arrangements for accommodation and buy flights only, it is said that if VAT had to be imposed on such journeys, there would be no alternative to applying VAT to scheduled services as well. The airlines will react strongly to any such suggestion, especially at a time when business class airfares are for the first time the subject of competition and reduced yield. Brussels may respond by saying that airfares should never have been excluded from VAT.

Taking all these considerations into account, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that at the moment the initiative lies with the EC.

In the end, British tour operators may be forced to apply VAT, but the government could help if it chose.

At a time when there is pressure to introduce an interim rate of VAT of about 5 per cent, package tours may well be in line for less harsh imposition than the standard rate of 17.5 per cent. Brussels may decree that we must apply VAT, but it will be Westminster which will decide the rate.

## Prices take off

AIR FARES, even through discount agencies, are rising as the peak season gets underway. Trailfinders (071-937 5400), however, has reduced its fares from Gatwick to Miami during May to £165, and travel must be completed by June 3. The return fare during June will be £235, and travel must be completed by July 31 when, it is expected, passengers will be asked to pay even more.

A FAMILY of two adults and up to four children can have a 12-night holiday in a tent or mobile home in Normandy and Brittany for £244 from June 5. The offer — down £62 on the normal brochure price — includes ferry crossing with Sally Line and accommodation and is available from Canvas Holidays (0383 621 000).

## Manchester record

MANCHESTER Airport has recorded the highest profit in its 55 year history. Members of the Airport board will be told today that pre-tax profits for the last year were £44 million compared with £34 million pounds for the previous year.

The increase in profits is matched by a record number of passengers — 12.5 million — compared with 11.2 million —

RETURN flights plus one week's accommodation in Goa are available from Sornak Travel Club (081-903 8166) from the end of September for £289.

NILE cruises are being offered through Hayes and Jarvis (081-741 9902/9912) for seven nights including flights and full board for £299. A second week is at Luxor Novotel for £49. Departures are throughout June on Fridays from Gatwick, or £12 supplement to fly from Manchester.

FLIGHTBOOKERS (071-757 2000) has scheduled flights to Dublin from either Stansted or Luton airports for £58 return, valid from now until the end of June.

FLIGHTS to, and half-board accommodation at, the Island View Club, Mauritius, are available every Thursday until June 11 with British Airways from Gatwick through Hayes and Jarvis (081-741 9902). Seven nights cost £586 and the second week an additional £105.

## Flown the world over



Grand design: passengers disembarking from a high-density Viscount V701 airliner

The Vickers Viscount enhances its reputation as one of the most durable and popular passenger aircraft of all time this month by celebrating its fortieth anniversary in active airline service.

In May, 1953, British European Airways introduced Viscounts, the world's first turboprop civil transport, designed by Sir George Edwards, on the London-Cyprus route, followed by the prestigious Heathrow-Paris service.

BEA's 26 Dash-700s and 800s were among the 440 Viscounts built, which went into service with operators worldwide. An order for 60 from America's Capital Airlines was a triumph for British planemakers. Now there are just 26 of the veteran four-engine airliners in service.

British World Airways (formerly British Air Ferries)

which operates ten of the 65/76-seater jets, based at London Stansted, Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh airports, has become the largest operator.

Southend-based British World — which also has BAe 146-300s and One-Eleven jets making up half of its 30 airliner fleet — divides the use of its ten Viscounts between passengers and freight. Enthusiasts daily recognise the shrill whine of the Rolls-Royce Dart turboprops.

At Aberdeen, BWA flies a

Viscount shuttle operation to Sumburgh on behalf of Shell Petroleum using three 76-seater aircraft. Five of the airline's turboprops are configured for passengers — with aero enthusiasts among the charterers — and five others for freight, including mail and overnight newspaper flights.

"I have been working with this aircraft throughout most of my career," Mike Kay, BWA's commercial director, says. "From my first job with Eagle Airways in the 1950s, the Viscount tended to follow me around... Channel Airways, BKS, KLM, and now almost 40 years later British World Airways."

The last new Viscounts off the assembly line in the late 1960s were delivered to the Chinese state airline, CAAC.

FRANK ROBSON

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## BALKAN VOID

No amount of talk can hide the dismal truth

The transatlantic recriminations about Bosnia have been muffled. Douglas Hurd's main concern, when he meets Warren Christopher tomorrow in Washington, will be to keep that diplomatic peace. For public consumption, consultations on "further measures" will continue. In London, Malcolm Rifkind asserts that "we are not saying you should not intervene", while in the next breath ruling out any "military solution".

All the main actors know that talk cannot obscure brutal truth. When fighting first broke out in the former Yugoslavia, there was talk of proper principles on which European and international security depended, that borders must not be redrawn by force, civilians massacred or driven from their homes, or the rule of law flouted. The truth is that these principles have been ground into Balkan dust because the West, while united in its desire to restore stability and even, belatedly, in its understanding of the consequences of failure, has not been prepared to use the power it commands.

When an early, limited use of military force could have prevented a foreseeable war in Bosnia, the Europeans hesitated for fear of exposing differences within their ranks which would set back the Community's premature and unrealistic plans for a common security policy. That first failure set a pattern of inadequate responses which have added steadily to the risks involved in compelling the acceptance of peace.

In its fruitless quest for a middle ground between confrontation and mere containment, driven forward by intolerable atrocities and backwards by what seemed like prudence, Europe is now deeply engaged, morally, financially and even militarily. It cannot flee. It will not fight. Of the powers engaged, only Russia is now attempting to exert leadership. The response is embarrassed silence from the Europeans, and a snub from Washington which, unless remedied, could cost the world dear.

Less than three weeks ago, outside Athens, the gulf between diplomacy and what was happening on the ground seemed about to

narrow. America was involved; Russia had given warning that its traditional pro-Serbian support could not be relied upon. The Serbian leadership proved sensitive to the incipient signs that an international coalition was at last bent on ending the fighting in Bosnia.

As Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, signed the Vance-Owen plan, Mr Christopher demanded that Serb forces stop shelling Muslim towns and blocking humanitarian aid immediately, on pain of imminent military action. But in the unchoreographed, hopelessly amateur diplomatic ballet that ensued, this proved to be mere bluster. Fighting on all sides promptly intensified because both Serbs and Croats were with reason convinced that defiance would be without cost.

The damage is done. Future aggressors now know that it pays to use force, especially in Europe. The latest United Nations Security Council resolution on "safe areas" sets a precedent for UN standards. Concealed mainly to quiet consciences appalled by slaughter and starvation, it would disarm the defenders of the mainly Muslim enclaves while allowing the Serb besiegers to keep their arsenals. This is being presented as "creeping implementation" of the Vance-Owen plan: it is creeping capitulation to Serb conquest.

If interventionism is in tatters, a strategy of containment is in little better shape. Russia, observing the West's disarray and not averse to demonstrating that it remains a power to be reckoned with in Europe, is trying to exploit the rift between Belgrade and the Bosnian Serbs. If the West has nothing better to offer than Russia's plan to send troops to ensure that Serbia's president, Slobodan Milosevic, implements his decision to seal the border, it should support it — as it should the sealing of the Croatian border. The Russians at least have still the respect of the Serbs. The West has now to reconstruct its own claims as guardian of the rule of law, on foundations more insecure than at any time since the 1930s.

## SEND FOR THE PICADORS

Labour's leader needs sharper tactics and more imagination

Today John Major and John Smith face each other across the dispatch box for their twice-weekly ritual of prime minister's questions. This is the most public display of point-scoring available to government and Opposition. Yet it has recently become as boring as a no-score football match. Though Mr Smith ought to be kicking at an open goal, he seems regularly to send the ball sailing over the crossbar.

When Margaret Thatcher was leader of the Opposition, she frequently asked no question at all, if she did not see an opportunity for discomfiting James Callaghan. And it was only when she won the subsequent election that she, unlike her predecessor, agreed to answer questions on any aspect of governmental responsibility. Now Mr Major has to follow suit, and Mr Smith, like his predecessor, feels obliged to leap up every Tuesday and Thursday. The Labour leader could benefit from some tactical lessons. A skilful leader of the Opposition sets up picadors to harry the prime minister on a subject before, like a matador, going in for the kill.

Ideally, they should ask the prime minister a series of deceptively innocent questions, the answers to which the Opposition leader can then use to impale his opponent. Roy Hattersley occasionally achieved this in Mr Kinnock's absence. But despite Mr Smith's forensic skills, he shows no sign of being able to use prime minister's questions to his tactical advantage.

He might well respond that he has more important things to do, principally the reform of his own party. He is rightly, and

bravely, taking on the unions in their opposition to one-member-one-vote for party elections. Yesterday, however, Mr Smith ruled out Labour support for electoral reform, even the heavily diluted version proposed by his own party's Plant commission report. He only conceded the principle of holding a referendum on the issue if and when Labour won power.

Opponents of electoral reform argue that Labour has to win an election under the current first-past-the-post system before it could deliver any change to the voting system. Once it has won, they say, the arguments for change would disappear. Quite apart from the cynical assumption on which this is based — that reform is only worthwhile to gerrymander more Labour seats — it begs the question of how Labour is to win an election in the first place.

A more convincing argument is that, without promising changes in the voting system in advance, Labour will not be able to garner the votes it needs from the Liberal Democrats to displace the Tories. This month's county council elections showed that, even if Labour and the centre party do not engage in formal pacts, local people are becoming increasingly willing to vote tactically to oust a Conservative. This is more likely to be repeated nationally if Labour adopts a main plank of Liberal policy: electoral reform.

All of this may seem a world away from question time. But perceptions of a party and its leader are formed from fragments of images that include parliamentary performance and questions of policy. Mr Smith cannot afford to let up on any of these fronts.

## YOU WILL, JACQUES, YOU WILL

Only the French would fuss over a politician's platitudes

Extravagance may be seen as a generous fault, but false attribution is mean. Jacques Attali, the conspicuous French technocrat who is president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, was urged from many quarters to resign last month when it became known that his bank, established two years ago to aid Eastern Europe, had spent twice as much on itself as on loans. Now an exhilarating drama has broken out in Paris over alleged misuse of some conversations in M Attali's latest book (his 17th), too accurately titled *Verbatim*.

The play depicts a notable cast. The injured party is Elie Wiesel, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, and the last man in the world from whom to lift copy. The matter concerns conversations between President Mitterrand and Mr Wiesel for a book that is about to be published. While they were going on, M Attali was special adviser to the president, and occupied the office next door. He was present during the conversations, parts of which are now said to have turned up verbatim in his book.

Everybody is behaving predictably as in French farce, with famous publishing houses screaming grave prejudice. Elie Wiesel expostulating more in sorrow than in anger. M Attali declaring it was agreed that he could use some extracts without attribution and transpose them in time, and President Mitterrand refusing to comment because he does not want anybody to think

that the book represents his official views. The French are an admirable race because they take intellectual matters seriously. M Attali could try the "riposte courtoise", that to borrow a conversation is research, not plagiarism. He could give "the *mot modest*", that immature artists imitate, mature artists lift. He could deliver "the reproful vaillant", that the pensées of President Mitterrand on world affairs are nobody's private property. He could go for the approach of Thomas Jefferson who, on being accused of plagiarism in the Declaration of Independence, said: "I did not consider it as any part of my charge to invent new ideas altogether and to offer no sentiment which had ever been expressed before." Then there is the historical defence that in oral societies, most performers "plagiarise" by borrowing material without identifying sources, and that conversations with President Mitterrand, though they may be stiff, are nothing if not oral. Or there is the argument from precedent rather than president, that everybody from Shakespeare and Villon onwards has been a snapper-up of others' trifles, changing them a bit as camouflage.

Most artists are affected by other artists, and the line between plagiarism and influence can be fine. But only in France could the familiar opinions of a politician on foreign policy be considered worth plagiarising, and the subsequent furious row guaranteed to sell more books.

## Swan Hunter and shipbuilding's ills

From Mr Michael Ranken

Sir, The crisis in the British shipbuilding industry (letters, May 17) is one of two inevitable and entirely predictable consequences of separating warship building (WS) from merchant shipbuilding (MS) at the time of privatisation in 1986, just at the beginning of what has been the deepest slump in MS for 20 years.

It resulted in the demise of all the major mainland MS yards except what became Kvaerner Govan and Swan Hunter, the latter now classed only as a warship yard though it has always built great merchant ships as well.

Not surprisingly, Brussels then excluded Swan Hunter from the MS intervention fund, at that time 29 per cent and still 9 per cent, at least until the end of 1994. North East Shipbuilders, forced into closure at Sunderland, and one of the most modern MS facilities in Europe, was finally bulldozed last year on the spurious grounds that there was too much MS capacity in the United Kingdom. Scotland's Latham at Port Glasgow has also ceased production.

The other consequences for the warship yards have been first the loss for want of orders of Hall Russell at Aberdeen and Brooke Marine at Lowestoft, and now in July, Cammell Laird, Birkenhead (owned by VSEL Barrow), one of the great yards, again because of its exclusion from the intervention fund, which prevents it too from offering competitive prices against continental MS yards.

Harland and Wolff in Belfast built recent royal fleet auxiliaries (RFAs) for the Ministry of Defence. Since becoming Norwegian-owned, this yard may now be permanently excluded from warship and RFA building.

With no major exports, the warship yards have only one monopoly customer, the MoD, now purveying far too few orders to keep the remaining yards in long-term business if these are limited only to warships. Closure of Swan Hunter (report, May 14) will result in the MoD having only one supplier for each main class of warship.

Where then will be the much vaunted competition, or do we intend to purchase future warships abroad and so lose yet more centuries of excellence in this country?

Britain's shipbuilding capacity is now a quarter of what it was 30 years ago; it must not be allowed to drop further. We must concentrate on the top end of the market for specialised designs where our maritime talents can excel and the balance of payments benefit both from high-value products available for export and from operat-

ing a proportion of them in our own trades, manned by UK officers and seamen.

Yours etc,  
MICHAEL RANKEN,  
44 Castelnau Mansions,  
Castelnau, Barnes, SW13.  
May 18.

From Mrs John Hills

Sir, Every business must be viable to survive, but how can a shipyard survive with its hands tied behind its back? When Swan Hunter was privatised in 1986, how did the government expect it to succeed if it was restricted to building for the Ministry of Defence?

We must surely keep one yard, already universally famous, able to build complete warships for us. Who knows what is round the corner, and the sea is one thing the politicians cannot reduce.

If only government would care about preserving and promoting quality. People after all need loyalty and pride as well as bread and milk.

Yours faithfully,  
KATE HILLS (great-granddaughter  
of Charles Sheridan Swan,  
founder of Swan Hunter),  
The Priory Cottage, Long Newnton,  
Tisbury, Gloucestershire,  
May 18.

From Lord Sterling of Plaistow,  
Chairman of P & O

Sir, May I comment on Mr John Taylor's letter (May 17) concerning British shipbuilding.

P & O Cruises and P & O European Ferries call for quotations for new ships, as a matter of policy, from British yards; of those ships Mr Taylor mentions no British yard found it possible to present a quotation. Several did not reply to the tender invitation.

Nothing would give us greater pleasure than to build our ships in British yards; if they were competitive in terms of price, delivery and quality we would certainly do so.

P & O European Ferries spends more than £20 million a year in British shipyards and with British subcontractors in maintaining its ships. P & O Cruises spends more than £11 million for the same purpose. One shares Mr Taylor's regret this cannot extend into building ships.

Yours faithfully,  
STERLING OF PLAISTOW,  
Chairman, Peninsular and Oriental  
Steam Navigation Company,  
79 Pall Mall, SW1.

Business letters, page 27

## Garden for the City?

From Mrs Jeanne Paisley

Sir, While Church leaders discuss whether to rebuild the church of St Ethelburga or to erect a monument to victims of terrorism on the site (letters, April 29, May 3, 8, 12) it may be worth considering another option.

While there is no shortage of churches in the City, there is a dearth of green oases. The construction of a garden of meditation on the site of St Ethelburga's would provide a haven of peace for City workers and a refreshing sight for passers by. It would be a living memorial to victims of terrorism, changing with the seasons.

Dr Hans Feibusch, whose murals have been destroyed, has offered the church a sculpture. This could stand in the garden. Some of the old stones, the

wood and the ancient tablets could be incorporated into the design.

The relatively small sums insured on the church's building and contents could go a long way towards the cost of such a garden, particularly if surveyors and designers gave their services; and the income from Robert Kirchin's endowment of 1557 should be adequate to provide maintenance.

The IRA has already destroyed the irreplaceable; and to build a replica of St Ethelburga, at enormous cost to the people and institutions of this country, would in no way hinder its cause. To replace the lovely old church with a tiny jewel of a garden would benefit many of us every day.

Yours sincerely,  
J. M. PAISLEY (Garden designer),  
Jacaranda, Wembury Park,  
Lingfield, Surrey.

## Russia rewritten

From Mr J. A. G. Stonehouse

Sir, Anniversaries (May 17) records the death of "... Catherine I, Empress of Russia, ... Leningrad, 1727". She would have been surprised to learn that her capital city had been renamed after a yet unborn 20th-century revolutionary. Perhaps this is just another example of the Soviets rewriting history.

Yours faithfully,  
J. A. G. STONEHOUSE,  
Elm Lodge,  
43 Upper Tulsehouse Street,  
Hitchin, Hertfordshire,  
May 17.

## Penelope Gilliatt

From Mr Ian MacFadyen

Sir, The suggestion in your obituary of Penelope Gilliatt (May 12) that she will be remembered not for her novels and short stories, but for her film criticism and her script for *Sunday, Bloody Sunday*, but as "the wife of the best man at the wedding of Princess Margaret to the Earl of Snowdon" who later "ran away with and married John Osborne" is a disservice to Penelope Gilliatt, both as a person and a writer.

Your obituarist is clearly aware of Gilliatt's contempt for gossip columnists but indulges in similar viciousness, triviality and innuendo. Penelope Gilliatt was a writer; but your obituarist treats her as a pathetic character in a bad short story, the kind which she herself could never have written.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN MACFADYEN,  
10 Buckmaster Road,  
Battersea, SW11.  
May 12.

## Moving to the left

From Mr David Moss

Sir, Miss Jill Bickerton (letter, May 11) writes of "the comparative safety of 50-60 mph in the slow lane" on motorways. Her good intentions are clear; her method, however, produces the opposite result. I propose a recommended minimum speed, conditions permitting, of 60 mph on motorways: those without either the personal confidence or the mechanical means to achieve this should confine themselves to other roads.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MOSS,  
73 Wroughton Road, SW11.

## From Mrs Penelope Mortimer

Sir, Your obituary of Penelope Gilliatt was gratuitously insulting. Penelope was highly respected in her profession, talented, witty, and generous to a fault. What vices she had were occasioned by her misfortunes, and harmed no one but herself.

Bette Davis had no connection with *Sunset Boulevard*; and even if she had, the fact would be irrelevant.

Sincerely,  
PENNELOPE MORTIMER,  
19 St Gabriel's Road, NW2.

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, Penelope Gilliatt is described as a founder-member of the anti-H-bomb Committee of 100. She was not a member of the Committee of 100 at any time during its existence from autumn 1960 to spring 1962.

Yours etc,  
NICOLAS WALTER,  
88 Islington High Street, N1.

Sports letters, page 39

## Sexual discrimination in academe

From Dr Jocelyn Dow

Sir, Discrimination in academic appointments is subtle and there is cause for complaint well before "women of outstanding scholarship and ability have been passed over in favour of mediocre males" (Professor Kenneth Minogue's letter, May 17). That, as a criterion by which to recognise discrimination, is an outrage.

Women should be offered the same opportunities as those enjoyed by men of comparable ability.

University committees appoint men. Can we be surprised that this is the case when universities and their committees are male-dominated? The problem is as severe in younger as in the ancient universities.

Many able women do teach and run research programmes in our universities, and frequently they occupy positions of greater than average responsibility, although few hold higher rank within their department. This might suggest that those women who have been appointed are of greater ability than their male colleagues.

Few of us would argue for positive discrimination, but we would ask for equal opportunity to be a fact and not simply a policy.

Yours faithfully,  
JOCELYN W. DOW,  
Glasgow University,  
Department of Biochemistry,  
Glasgow G12 8QQ,  
May 18.

## Juries and justice

From Mr Peter Carter-Ruck

Sir, The criticism of your correspondent, Mr James Bradshaw (May 10), of Bernard Levin's baring of the judges and of support for the jury system (May 4) seems, in part, to misdirect his target.

Whilst I wholly support his criticism of Mr Levin's uncalled for and unjustified attack on the judges, it is no answer to embroider this with baring of the jury system. The fault lies not with the jury system but with the legislature.

It has always been a principle of English law that when a citizen's life, liberty or honour are at stake, he is entitled to be judged by his fellow countrymen.

Where the system has failed is in the abrogation and repeal of well-tested laws and customs by politically motivated legislation.

As a result, citizens are no longer judged by their peers — their equals — but by anyone, criminal, illiterate, uneducated, or medically unfit, because the only qualification for eligibility to serve on a jury is now to be over 18 and under 70: a university professor of 71 with a first-class honours degree in jurisprudence is not eligible, whereas a semi-illiterate 18-year-old is.

If special juries (those whose members required some qualification) were reintroduced, some of the absurdly high awards of libel damages and the unduly long fraud trials, often ending in perverse verdicts, would almost certainly be far fewer.

The wholly unsatisfactory present situation started with the Juries Act 1949, a party politically motivated measure which abolished special juries for libel actions and concluded with the Courts Act 1971, when special juries were abolished also for fraud trials.

## Consular assistance

From the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

Sir, Kate Alderson's articles of May 12 about the detention in France of Raymond Bickley and of May 17 about the death of Paul Douglas, again in France, imply that our consuls were not active enough on behalf of these British citizens.

Mr Bickley was visited in prison by the British consul. At the prompting by our consular staff a lawyer was appointed to represent his case. Immediately it was learnt that the lawyer had not visited Mr Bickley and had not attended the first hearing, the consul general took up the case with the president of the local bar association.

We shall continue to press for the lawyer to provide Mr Bickley with a proper defence, but British consuls cannot be held responsible for the way in which foreign legal defence systems are operated.

There is no way in which the Foreign Office can be blamed for the tragic death of Mr Douglas at Vannes prison. Other newspapers which reported this story in January noted correctly that the consul had visited him on more than one occasion and that the decision by the French authorities to place Mr Douglas in solitary confinement after his attempted escape was supported by experienced prison medical and psychiatric staff.

Sadly, he committed suicide, but the consul had no grounds to dispute such expert and authoritative advice.

Our consular staff work hard throughout the world on behalf of Britons. They do a very good job, often under difficult circumstances. Your articles do them an injustice.

Yours sincerely,  
MARK LENNOX-BOYD,  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office,  
King Charles Street, SW1.  
May 18.

From Dr Dolores Byrne

Sir, Your quest for other measures to give a profile of the UK university ("How the university rankings figures were reached", May 14) could be answered in part by the inclusion of statistics on the female/male ratio at undergraduate, postgraduate and staff levels, particularly in the science and engineering faculties.

Some of the reasons underlying the scarcity of women following careers in the physical sciences and in engineering include the sense of isolation experienced as the lone female in a team and the lack of female scientists as role models and mentors at senior levels within an organisation. Nationally there are two female professors of physics and one female professor of chemistry.

While the government, through the Committee on Women in Science, Technology and Engineering which has been set up by Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for Science, seeks to discover why so few women reach the top in science and engineering, perhaps *The Times* could reassess its lists of top 20 universities for sciences and for engineering to include the commitment of universities to act on these issues. Can the nation continue to afford to under-utilise the pool of technological talent available?

Yours faithfully,  
DOLORES BYRNE  
(Chair, Women in Physics),  
The Institute of Physics,  
47 Belgrave Square, SW1.

Both measures should be repealed in so far as they affect jury trials, and replaced with some sensible minimum qualification for eligibility, so that those involved in civil or criminal trials would be judged by their peers.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER CARTER-RUCK,  
Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners,  
75 Shoe Lane, EC4,  
May 17.

From Professor Glanville Williams, QC, FBA

Sir, Mr James Bradshaw makes the important proposal that criminal charges in the crown court should be decided by a judge with two lay assessors.

This would be an immense improvement on the jury system. A tribunal deciding questions of fact ought to be able to consider all relevant evidence, but at present it is thought that the jury, isolated from the judge, cannot be trusted to hear it all. The resulting exclusionary rules make the law of evidence highly technical and a source of error.

A change from the jury to decision by the judge and two assessors, sitting together and requiring a unanimous vote for convicting (not for acquitting), and giving reasons for the conviction, would enable the law to be immensely simplified, verdicts to be rendered more trustworthy, trials to be expedited, and public money saved.

The two assessors must be chosen for intelligence, and must above all have the firmness and moral integrity to stand against the opinion of the judge when they disagree with him. They should be appointed for a fixed period, and should receive sufficient remuneration.

Yours faithfully,  
GLANVILLE WILLIAMS,  
Merton Gate, Gazeley Road,  
Cambridge.

## Instant honours

From Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir, Might I suggest that Eddie George, governor-designate of the Bank of England, would be a worthy recipient of an "instant honour" such as those awarded to the heroines of the Neulilly nursery school siege (Diary, May 18), since he has decided to freeze his own pay to make a point about inflation (report, also May 18)?

Over the past three years, according to the Institute of Management, the pay of the typical chief executive of Britain's larger companies has risen by 40 per cent, while the pay of the average worker has risen by a tenth of that amount (unless, of course, the average worker has been made redundant in that time).

Should the solution to this anomaly not be for the chief executive's pay to increase at no more than the average rate awarded to the company's workforce, unless he is willing to follow Eddie George's example?

Yours sincerely,  
SIGMUND STERNBERG,  
Star House,  
Grafton Road, NWS,  
May 18.

## Deciding vote

From Mr Leslie T. Standing

Sir, We must be thankful that the Danes have got it right this time; the prospect of a third referendum would have been too awful to contemplate.

Yours faithfully,  
L. T. STANDING,  
Flat 11, Four Grand Avenue,  
Hove, Sussex,  
May 19.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.







ments and parasitic im-  
made these observations  
difficult, but Campbell  
a genius for setting up  
equipment so as to  
at the relevant light and  
de the numerous sources  
wanted light.

In the second field, from the  
the 1960s, was the use of  
solid grating patterns to  
define the Modulation  
Transfer Function (MTF) of  
the eye. The MTF re-  
sponse is a neural response in  
the system and so it reflects  
response as well as the  
fidelity of the optical image.

the coffee room where he held  
forth with an almost inex-  
haustible supply of stories.  
One never heard him com-  
plain in spite of family trage-  
dies and crippling arthritis of  
his back. The extraordinary  
number and distinction of his  
colleagues and collaborators,  
and the affection in which they  
held him, was very evident at  
the "Fergus Feed" which  
marked his retirement from  
his Chair (though certainly not  
from his laboratory) at Cam-  
bridge in 1991.

He is survived by his wife  
Helen and three children.

State Department officials.  
"They say 'Don't say this,  
don't say that,' or 'don't talk  
about that,'" he said. "It  
is particularly important for the  
VOA to have an image and a  
reputation for telling the  
truth."

Though it was set up under  
a charter which called for it to  
be "accurate, objective and  
comprehensive," as well as  
"reliable and authoritative" in  
its news, the Voice of America  
had become little more than a  
propaganda weapon in the  
Cold War long before  
Giddens took charge. His

tion seemed to be turning  
away from the propaganda  
role for the VOA. He returned  
to his commercial radio and  
television company in Mobile,  
Alabama, which he had  
founded in 1946.

In 1983 Giddens was re-  
called to government service  
by President Reagan and  
became acting director of  
Radio Martí, the station  
broadcasting to Cuba, but it  
was not to his taste and he did  
not stay long.

Kenneth Giddens is sur-  
vived by Zelma, his wife of 59  
years, and three daughters.

**OBITUARY**  
**HERR GUSTAV MAHLER**  
The death of Gustav Mahler, one of the  
most distinguished musical conductors of the  
century, is announced as having taken place in  
Vienna on Thursday night.

He was a Bohemian, of Jewish origin, and  
was born on July 7, 1860; he received his  
general education at Jeggau, Prague, and  
conservatorium, and from 1877 was a pupil of the  
conservatorium in the last-named city. In  
1893 he received his first regular theatre  
appointment as the second capellmeister at  
Pesth, and in 1895 succeeded August Seidl  
as conductor of the opera at Prague. After two years as  
Seidl's assistant, he was appointed  
Seidl's conductor at Leipzig, he began an  
important engagement at Pesth. From 1891  
to 1897 he filled the chief conductor's place at  
Hamburg, and in the latter year was  
appointed Hofcapellmeister at the Vienna  
opera, succeeding Richter as conductor of the  
Symphonic Concerts there. It was in 1892  
that he made his first appearance in England,  
producing a memorable series of German  
operas at Covent Garden. In the autumn of  
1897, having resigned his Vienna appoint-  
ment, he went to New York as chief conductor  
of the Metropolitan Opera House, and was  
engaged for the two following seasons.

**ON THIS DAY**  
**May 20 1911**



*In this obituary of Gustav Mahler his fame as  
a conductor does not go by default, but the  
author was less certain as to what would be  
thought of his symphonies in the future.*

His work as a conductor was of great  
importance, being entirely free from exag-  
geration and in some ways more restrained,  
complete, and accomplished than that of any  
man since Richter: he made a considerable  
mark as a composer, mainly of symphonies,  
of which there exist no fewer than eight. He  
made various experiments in the way of  
extending the scope of the symphony, as, for  
example, when he introduced a soprano solo  
in the finale of the fourth and a choral finale  
in the eighth, which was produced in Vienna  
last autumn. Two of the symphonies, the first  
and fourth, have been played at Promenade

Concerts and elsewhere in London: the  
operatic works of Mahler are few and  
unimportant. It is too early to guess at the  
place which his symphonic works will  
ultimately take, for while they are un-  
doubtedly interesting in their union of  
modern orchestral richness with a melodic  
simplicity that often approached harmony,  
they are obviously sincere in expression and  
original in design.

A correspondent writes:—  
"The appointment of Herr Mahler to the  
directorship of the Vienna Imperial Opera  
closed the period of the conservatory associa-  
tions of Mahler and Richter as conductors  
of the names of John and Richter as a  
personality. Mahler displayed a vigour  
approximating to ruthlessness. Any public  
personage who essays a policy of reform, be it  
political, economic, or musical, in the at-  
mosphere of the Austrian capital exposes  
himself to the fate reserved for those who try  
to 'bustle the East' and Mahler's untimely  
death is in part an after effect of his constant  
and largely successful struggle against the  
semi-Oriental atmosphere of Vienna. His title  
to fame as Director rests mainly upon his  
introduction to Vienna of what is now  
regarded as the orthodox interpretation of  
Wagner's operas, and upon his resolute  
return to the spirit of Mozart ...











## CU keeps to trend on profits

By SARAH BAGNALL  
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

REINFORCING recent upbeat statements from rival insurers, Commercial Union, the strongest of the UK composites, heralded a brighter future as it reported improved first-quarter results.

But the shares fell 3p to 574p in a falling stock market on the news that the group had made a £16.2 million pre-tax profit in the three months to end-March, compared with a £19.2 million loss last time.

The results were in line with City expectations, though some analysts had recently upgraded forecasts in the hope that CU would follow in General Accident's steps with better-than-expected profits. Last week, GA surprised the City with first-quarter profits of £41.9 million.

Tony Brend, chief executive, said life profits were £2.8 million up at £29.8 million with "an increase in profits from a number of territories". Worldwide, Commercial Union, which raised £428 million via a February rights issue, reported an underlying rise in general insurance premiums of 14 per cent to £1.1 billion and a 1 per cent rise in life premiums to £518.5 million, excluding the impact of exchange rate movements.

In the UK, CU has raised market share in the general insurance market "on a selective basis", said Peter Foster, general manager. General insurance premiums rose 23 per cent to £463.2 million.

Tempus, page 27

# SAS acquisition by Compass signals offensive in Europe

By CARL MORTISHER

COMPASS, the catering and healthcare group, is paying £63 million for the airport and contract catering businesses of SAS Service Partners in a bid to break into European markets. At the same time, Compass is raising £87 million in a rights issue, which will fund the initial payment of £42 million and reduce the company's borrowings.

Francis Mackay, chief executive, said the acquisition would establish Compass as a market leader in airport catering in northern Europe and would add to the group's portfolio of brands. He described the SAS businesses as "cash-generative, with low capital expenditure".

Compass is issuing 21.5 million ordinary shares at 420p on the basis of six for every 19 held. There is an interim dividend of 4.44p (4.19) and the company forecasts a final of 8.56p, to be paid on the enlarged share capital.

SAS Service, which is part of the Scandinavian airline group, runs airport restaurants in eight countries; its contract catering side runs company restaurants and hospital catering in Scandinavia, the UK and Germany. Profit for 1992 — adjusted to exclude one-off profits and central costs — was £9 million, on turnover of £187 million. Compass turned down the opportunity to acquire the SAS airline catering business because of fears over cost cutting and increased competition.

Mr Mackay said that Compass would get franchises for Burger King and Harry Ramsden's fish and chips, which it hoped to develop further. SAS Service is the main contract catering operator in northern Europe, Germany, where Compass



Out in front: Francis Mackay says the deal will give Compass leadership in airport catering in northern Europe

wants to expand, is reckoned by analysts to be the least developed market.

The SAS businesses will have £8.5 million of net cash at completion, reducing the total purchase price, including deferred consideration, of £72 million. Roger Matthews, finance director, said Compass was not taking on the substan-

tial central overhead, bringing the underlying price/earnings ratio of the acquisition down to ten.

Compass's like-for-like growth was slow in the six months to March 28, owing to recession and about £1 million of investment costs. Pre-tax profit was up 7 per cent to £18.2 million and earnings

per share rose by the same percentage, to 18p. Turnover increased from £176 million to £209 million, boosted by catering acquisitions.

Healthcare profits rose by 6.3 per cent, to £6.7 million. SAS is Compass's third acquisition in just over six months.

Tempus, page 27

## Property lending falls by record £1.5bn

BANK of England lending figures show a drop of £1.5 billion in property lending for the four months to end-March, the largest fall on record. Total lending to the property sector fell from £37.9 billion in November to £36.8 billion in March, with a decline of 4.7 per cent year-on-year.

Rupert Clarke, managing director of Jones Lang Wootton Finance, said the figures reflected continuing writedowns by banks as well as property acquisitions from overseas buyers that are not borrowing in the UK. The largest fall in lending is by American banks, whose exposure is down 18 per cent to £1.3 billion. The UK clearing banks raised lending by £800 million but this is believed to be a result of loan transfer. Their exposure has been cut by more than £1 billion.

## Acatos advances

ACATOS & Hutcheson, the edible oils manufacturer, increased pre-tax profits 21 per cent to £5.1 million in the six months to March 28, thanks to a £400,000 reduction in the interest charge and lower production costs. Earnings per share rose 15 per cent to 10.4p and the interim dividend is up from 2.5p to 3p. Acatos shares rose 15 per cent last week after "ONA, a French quoted company, sold its 16.7 per cent stake. The company believes the shares were placed with a number of different buyers.

## Chamberlin progress

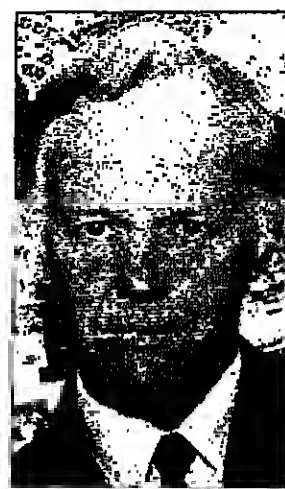
CHAMBERLIN and Hill, the foundries-to-electrical components company, announced full-year taxable profits to end-March of £1.6 million (£1.4 million) on sales of £20.26 million (£19.01 million). "The increase in turnover was wholly attributable to exports, for which the prospects are good," the company said. Earnings rose to 16.07p from 15.28p a share, and a final dividend of 4.50p gives a total of 6.25p (6p). Chamberlin said a first-half trading improvement was not sustained.

## Gates in reverse

FRANK G. GATES, the Ford dealer based in East London, announced a fall in pre-tax profits to £886,000 for 1992, after £1.3 million in 1991, as a result of greater interest charges — £559,000, against £163,000. Earnings fell to 3.65p (4.85p) a share. The interim dividend is held at 2.25p. The group said the first quarter of 1993 had shown "a considerable improvement" on the same period last year, due largely to its expanding contract hire and daily hire, but it was too early to say if this would be sustained.

## Leeds Group advances

LEEDS Group, the textile dyeing and printing group that recently made its first foray into mainland Europe with two Dutch textile acquisitions, announced pre-tax profits of £2.9 million, a 16 per cent rise, for the six months to end-March. Earnings jumped 14 per cent to 10.80p a share from 9.50p, and the interim dividend rises 18 per cent to 2.75p. Robert Wade, chairman, right, said the improved profits resulted from higher volumes and greater productivity despite a fire last November at the group's Walsden printing plant.



## Baris cuts its losses

BARIS Holdings, the fire protection and insulation group, cut pre-tax losses to £351,000 (£948,000 loss) in the 12 months to February 28. At the operating level, the group made a £26,000 profit (£799,000 loss), but increased interest charges of £377,000 pushed the group into the red. Turnover slipped from £23.2 million to £20.6 million. Orders are currently £9 million against £14 million last year. Baris says it hopes to increase work in Germany following reunification. There is no dividend (2p).

## Directors of Willis companies lent £1.2m

By SARAH BAGNALL  
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SEVERAL directors of Willis Corroon subsidiary companies were lent a total of £1.2 million to help meet insurance losses and relocation costs, Britain's biggest insurance broker announced yesterday. About half of the loans, most of which were interest-free and made during 1991 and 1992, went to people "who were relocating and the other half went to people with particular problems with Lloyd's results", a Willis spokesman said.

The group has lent money in previous years, and to other employees. However, there are no requirements to disclose loans made to non-directors. Willis reported better than expected first-quarter results. Pre-tax profits for the three months to March 31 rose 12 per cent to £47.1 million, including a £2.7 million loss for the discontinued UK underwriting operations.

On an underlying basis, excluding the effects of exchange rate movements and non-recurring items, brokerage and fee revenue grew by 2 per cent and operating expenses fell by 2 per cent.

Exchange rate movements added £2.2 million to profits. Earnings per share for the continuing operations advanced to 7.5p from 6.7p.

## Lease group pursues bank role

By OUR CITY STAFF

WOODCHESTER Investments, the leasing group, is seeking a partner to develop a significant retail banking presence in the Irish market. "We are currently reviewing opportunities for entering the retail banking sector, Craig McKinney, group chairman, said at its annual meeting.

He said it wished to develop a retail banking business in parallel with its existing finance-house business. Woodchester is the leading finance house in the Irish market.

Prospects for Woodchester had improved with the stabilisation of currency markets, said Mr McKinney. The Irish currency crisis, which saw short-term interest rates rise to 100 per cent, cost £12.7 million (£2.6 million) in the last quarter of 1992.

He said: "Given the rapid fall in interest rates, stabilisation of the currency markets and the more optimistic outlook for the UK, the outlook for both our trading markets is very positive."

Woodchester, a quoted subsidiary of Credit Lyonnais, is involved in leasing in Ireland, Britain and continental Europe. It had assets of £1.4 billion at the end of last year.



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**FUTURES PAGER**

Shares  
£38m

Sun Alliance  
pressed on

UK foundry  
triumphs  
in Brussels

A SHEFFIELD group has won the right to supply the British Royal Air Force with a new generation of fighter jets. The group, which includes the Sheffield-based firm of BAE Systems, has been awarded a contract worth £1.2 billion. The contract is for the supply of 100 fighter jets over a period of 10 years. The group is led by BAE Systems, which is a subsidiary of the British Aerospace group. The other members of the group are the Rolls-Royce group, the GEC group, and the GEI group. The group is expected to start work on the contract in the summer of 1993.

Germany suf

GERMANY has suffered a severe economic crisis in the last few years. The country's economy has been hit hard by a combination of factors, including a high unemployment rate, a large trade deficit, and a high level of government debt. The crisis has led to a loss of confidence in the German government and a decline in the value of the German mark. However, the German government has taken steps to address the crisis, including cutting government spending and increasing taxes. The government is also working to improve the country's economic structure and to attract foreign investment. It is hoped that these measures will lead to a recovery of the German economy in the near future.

مكتبة من الأصل



# Shares slump as discounting drains £38m off interim profits at Bass

By MARTIN WALLER  
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

**Chronic overcapacity in the brewing industry has prompted big discounts for pub operators but drinkers are unlikely to enjoy cheaper beer at the bar**

BRITAIN'S biggest brewers are seeing their profits slashed by a price war that is allowing independent public house operators to wrest discounts of 50 per cent or more from some brewers.

Bass, the country's largest brewer, became the third company in as many days to show the damage done to brewers' profits by discounting. In the six months to April 10, pre-tax profits at Bass fell by £38 million to £228 million, far worse than City analysts had expected. Despite an interim dividend of 5.45p (5.25p), the shares slumped 50p to 483p, dragging other brewing shares down with them.

Ian Prosser, chairman and chief executive of Bass, conceded that "the financial outcome falls short of some expectations". He said the downturn on the Continent had badly hit Bass's Holiday Inn hotel chain, reducing profits by £8 million compared to those of the same period last year. The brewing division had had to

increase provisions by £9 million to cover bad debts, while incurring an additional £4.9 million of restructuring costs.

This week, Whitbread and Allied-Lyons had blamed discounting by other brewers for erosion on margins and admitted that they too had had to discount to maintain their market shares.

Bass said yesterday that it was keeping the discount it is having to offer to public house operators below that on offer from competitors. "Bass isn't leading the discounting in the industry, but it's responding where necessary," said Philip Bowman, the finance director.

Bass refuses to use the term "price war" in public, although in private executives accept this is what is happening. But Tony Portno, head of brewing, said there was "an increased level of aggression

in terms of pricing". At the heart of the price war is the continuing chronic overcapacity in the brewing industry, which is probably operating at about 80 per cent of ideal capacity. Allied-Lyons on Tuesday said that to remove the overcapacity, each of the half a dozen biggest brewers would have to close one brewery, although a more likely outcome is that weaker, smaller regional companies will be forced out of the race.

The big brewers privately point to Courage, owned by Fosters Brewing of Australia, as the leader in the discount wars, which some industry observers say has seen £70 or more off the price of a £150 barrel. Two important supply deals that Courage has signed up run out next year and in 1998, and the other brewers claim the company is trying to buy future market share at the expense of margin.

Courage denies it is leading the price-cutting. "We're not charging silly prices, and we've no intention of giving silly discounts," said a spokesman. "We don't see ourselves as being in a discount war."

Although the recession has clearly served to hold down the price of a pint, industry observers say the customer is unlikely to be the main beneficiary from any price war. The clearest winners are the rash of independent operators that spring up as the big brewers sold off chunks of their tied estate under the government's beer orders.

Allied-Lyons has announced its long-awaited £200 million convertible bonds issue to cut debt and fund further expansion. The guaranteed convertible subordinated bonds are due 2008 and carry a coupon of 6½ per cent a year.

Pub reforms fail, page 6  
Tempus, page 27



Followers in price war: Ian Prosser, of Bass, which says it is not the lead discount

## Sun Alliance board pressed on libel loan

By A CORRESPONDENT

HENRY Lambert, soon-to-retire chairman of Sun Alliance, was given a stormy farewell yesterday when a row over a £500,000 loan to Lord Aldington, ex-chairman, to fund a libel action boiled over again at the annual meeting.

Mr Lambert was pressed by shareholders over details of the loan, which paid for Lord Aldington's 1989 action against Count Tolstoy, and they interrupted a farewell tribute to him from his successor Sir Christopher Benson.

They asked when the money would be repaid and why it had not been disclosed in accounts. They also accused Mr Lambert of helping out a friend at the expense of the company. To add to his discomfort, the company was attacked over delays in paying out claims to policyholders.

Mr Lambert defended the loan and said the board had been kept fully informed. "People talk as if it is my decision because I happen to know Lord Aldington well, but it is a board decision," he said. "It is the sort of thing we would have done for any

employee who got into difficulties because of his duties." Lord Aldington's court case arose out of false allegations that as a brigadier in the British Army at the end of the second world war, he sent 70,000 Cossacks and Yugoslavs to their deaths at the hands of communists.

The defendants were Count Tolstoy and Mr Nigel Watts, who was also in dispute with Sun Alliance over a fatal accident claim. Count Tolstoy was at the annual meeting and joined the attack against Mr Lambert.

Mr Lambert said the company did not have to account for every transaction and it was waiting for the case to be resolved. He conceded that the company might have to write off the loan.

Sun Alliance was also criticised about delays in paying claims, with one shareholder saying its reputation was suffering. However, the company argued that out of 5,000 disputes it went to court in 204 cases and won 87 per cent of them, above the industry average of 60 per cent.

## UK foundry triumphs in Brussels

FROM TOM WALKER  
IN BRUSSELS

A SHEFFIELD foundry has proven the European Commission's monitoring of state aids to be slipshod, encouraging small businesses to make Brussels reopen investigations into unfairly subsidised competition from abroad.

In a judgment in favour of the little man yesterday, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg agreed with William Cook plc of Sheffield that the commission should never have allowed a rival Spanish foundry to receive £4 million in state aid.

The judgment, a huge embarrassment to the commission, could open the way for many other companies to try to force foreign rivals into repaying state aid.

"We want to see the new foundry - they [Piezas y Rodajes] built shut down and the money repaid," said Andrew Cook, chairman of the company, which is Europe's largest producer of steel castings.

## DLR chief asked to head Canary

By CARL MORTSHED

CANARY Wharf's bankers have asked Sir Peter Levene, chairman of the Docklands Light Railway, to head the new Canary Wharf company when it comes out of administration, expected to be later this year.

Sources close to the administrators say that Sir Peter, who has not yet accepted the offer, is not an obvious choice as he does not have property expertise. However, he has an insider's view of the development, having been brought in to run the troubled railway two years ago. He is deputy chairman of Wasserstein Perella, the small American investment bank.

Sir Peter was chairman of United Scientific Holdings, the arms manufacturer, in 1985, when Michael Heseltine appointed him chief of defence procurement. He left to take on the Docklands Light Railway in 1991, and, in April last year, was appointed adviser on efficiency to the prime minister.

## Saatchi to raise £73m with issue

By OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

SAATCHI & Saatchi, the debt-plagued advertising group, launched a £73 million rights issue to repay some debts and fund investment, including the purchase of minority interests in continental European subsidiaries.

A rights issue had been forecast since Saatchi's financial restructuring in March 1991, and the market took the issue in its stride. The shares, after an initial plunge, ended 2p lower at 170p.

The company has forecast a return to the dividend list for the year ending December 1994, although this will need the agreement of the company's banks under the provisions of its lending agreements. The rights issue was at

130p, on a ten for 27 basis. Of the money raised, £36.5 million will repay debts; £19 million will go towards buying out the minority interests in Saatchi's Italian, German and Spanish interests; £10.5 million will be invested, for example, at the Zurich media services business and CME-KHBB, the group's third advertising network, and £7 million will be invested in new technology.

Charles Scott, chief executive since he took over from Robert Louis-Dreyfus on April 1, said borrowings were £194 million at the 1992 year end, but with the proceeds of the rights, they should be cut to £150 million or £155 million by the end of this year.

Mr Scott said the investment that would stem from the rights would be "cautious expansion". He added: "Our clients are looking to expand - now is the right time to invest in the business." He hoped that Saatchi was becoming a "normal" company.

Saatchi has also agreed with its banks further changes to its borrowing covenants, including the deferral until 1996 of repayments totalling £50 million that were due this year and next. Mr Scott said bank facilities were not being reduced at the same rate as debt, to allow the group leeway in its borrowing.



Scott: reducing debt

Tempus, page 27

## America's trade gap soars to four-year high

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA'S trade deficit soared to its highest monthly rate for four years in March, raising fears of a further hardening in US trade policy and about the state of the US economy in general.

The merchandise trade deficit went from \$7.9 billion in February to \$10.2 billion in March, far worse than predicted by forecasters, who now speak of a return to annual trade deficits of more than \$100 billion. Japan accounts for more than half of the March deficit, a fact that is almost certain to be exploited by the Clinton administration in trade negotiations.

Ron Brown, commerce secretary, said the imbalance had to be corrected "using the three tools at our disposal: prompt fiscal stimulus in Japan, market-driven exchange rate corrections and negotiations that remove the structural barriers to improved trade between our nations".

Mr Brown's comment reflected the US view that Japan should stimulate its economy beyond a \$117 billion programme announced last month, that the yen's appreciation against the dollar has further to go, and that Japan must carry through structural reforms to improve foreign

companies' market access. The dollar slid beneath 110 yen but later recovered to 111, on unconfirmed talk of official support for the dollar.

President Clinton has frequently addressed the question of America's trade deficit with Japan, and promised action to restore balance. Earlier this week, Japan reported that its trade surplus rose to \$10.25 billion in April.

The country with the second largest trade surplus with America - \$1.46 billion - is China. China's most-favoured nation status is up for renewal in a few weeks, and the deficit, combined with American outrage about human rights abuses and arms proliferation, could lead the Clinton administration to impose conditions.

The March trade deficit is the result of a 9.7 per cent rise in imports, topped by imports of foreign oil and motor cars, compared with a 5.6 per cent rise in US exports. There are fears that the continued imbalances and the sluggishness of Japan's and Europe's economies could further hamper the US economy this year. Some forecasters are revising downward the latest commerce department provisional forecasts for first-quarter growth of 1.8 per cent.

## Lloyd's 'fitter than most UK insurers'

By SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LLOYD'S of London is in a fitter financial state than the average US or British insurer, according to UBS, the broker.

A report into the relative profitability and financial position of Lloyd's, commissioned by the Corporation of Lloyd's, asserts that while Lloyd's faces a crisis in confidence, in reality, it is a crisis of the whole insurance industry.

The UBS analysis, by Chris Hitchens, insurance analyst, who compiled a similar report last year, says Lloyd's "is not

alone in performing poorly." And the billions of pounds of losses are not, as underwriters say, due to a "mysterious rise in natural catastrophes or a sudden tendency for US courts to award high damages" but "result largely from underwriters cutting prices".

Adjusting profits to compare Lloyd's and the insurance companies shows on average in 31 of the past 40 reported years Lloyd's has produced higher profit margins than either UK or US insurers.

## ISTANBUL

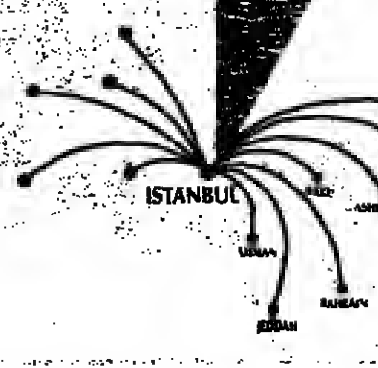
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**TURKISH AIRLINES**  
NEW HORIZONS IN COMFORT

## Germany suffers second steel setback

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY has suffered its second big steel casualty in six months, this time at the hands of Usinor-Sacilor, France's state-owned steel group, which has made Saarstahl, its German unit, file for bankruptcy.

The troubles blighting the European steel industry claimed its first victim in December, when Klöckner-Werke, the Ruhr firm that produces about 10 per cent of German steel, was forced to seek court protection from its creditors.

Usinor controls Saarstahl, the most heavily subsidised of Germany's steel-makers, through its 70 per cent ownership of the loss-making DHS, which groups Saarstahl, a rod, bar and wiremaker, and the steel producer Dillinger Hütte. The regional state of Saarland owns 27.5 per cent. Oskar Lafontaine, Saarland's left-wing Social Democrat prime minister, has

pledged to take all possible steps to help Saarstahl maintain production. The company, which produced 2.2 million tonnes of steel last year, had planned to reduce its workforce 2,700 to 4,500.

Roland de Bonneville, outgoing management board chairman of DHS, told the Saarland press that DHS, which is losing DM30 million a month, might seek court protection from its creditors under Germany's equivalent of America's chapter 11 proceedings.

The decision to seek direct bankruptcy for Saarstahl prompted cries of protest from rival steel firms, fearful that a debt-free Saarstahl under new ownership will undercut the market just as the loss-making industry is trying to restore prices. The German steel industry is embittered by the fact that Francis Meier, the Usinor president, is chairman of the European steel industry association

Eurower, which is supposed to be ensure fair competition.

It appears that Usinor, under pressure from the new centre-right government in France to reduce public spending, has decided to cut its losses in Germany to safeguard French jobs. Usinor loaned Saarstahl Fr1.4 billion, on top of the DM3 billion Saarstahl received in state aid from 1978 to 1988.

The German steel industry is concerned that the Saarstahl move will endanger the current attempts at reducing steel capacity across Europe. Klöckner has secured approval to go ahead with its debt restructuring, but has still to iron out differences with Brussels over capacity cuts.

Robert Hubry, the Usinor finance director, said that Saarstahl faced estimated losses between Fr1.3 billion and Fr1.5 billion this year.







## ECONOMIC VIEW

# After Denmark's yes vote, the time is ripe to break the franc

Only one man can save Europe from anti-democratic federalism and monetary union.

Anatole Kaletsky writes a letter to George Soros

Dear Mr Soros, You have been justifiably hailed for saving the British economy, when you broke the Bank of England on White Wednesday. You have done great charitable work in Russia, Bosnia and Eastern Europe. Recently, you have topped your triumph in the foreign exchange markets with a brilliantly timed coup in gold. I now call on you to crown these achievements with one more benefaction for the people of Europe. My proposal would make an even bigger contribution to global peace and prosperity than your previous initiatives. It would simultaneously yield a handsome profit for yourself and the other shareholders of the Quantum Fund.

After the Danish referendum and the defeat of the Eurosceptics in Britain, you alone can save Europe from the madness of premature monetary union. You can do this by breaking the link between the mark and the French franc. But you have only a few months left to act.

The Bundesbank is capitulating in its battle against inflation. Once its reputation is destroyed, it may be too late to force a franc devaluation and avoid a political disintegration in Germany. Time is also running out to exploit your own achievements. Today, other investors are bound to follow wherever you lead. But one top financier told me recently that there is only one financial institution with a more inflated reputation than the Bundesbank — and that is Soros Fund Management. You must act fast, before this idea gets around.

First, and foremost, you must save Europe from monetary union for moral and political reasons. The people of Europe are opposed to a federal state, but the politicians intend to ignore them. As you know, all serious economic analysis of monetary union shows that a single currency can work only within a fiscal, and therefore a political, federation. In fact, the idea of monetary union is being promoted by Brussels specifically because it will force Europe to become a federal state.

Like you, I personally share in the ideal of a federal Europe. But if a United States of Europe is to be created, it must be with the consent of the people. It must be built on democratic institutions, not secret ministerial cabals. To impose federalism without democratic foundations would reawaken nationalism and racial hatred. It would also paralyse Europe.

This has already happened in foreign policy. Witness the Bosnian disgrace. Only last Sunday, the Soros Foundation announced that it was stopping your \$50 million relief programme in Bosnia, because of the international community's failure to enforce a peace plan. Surely you must realise why the world failed to act.

European countries are trying to make their foreign policy by consensus — and will be bound to do so once Maastricht is ratified. But 12 national



TIME TO ATTACK FRANCE

governments will never reach unanimity about the use of military force. An unelected European president, who occupies his post on six-month rotation, will never give the leadership needed for diplomatic or military risks. Instead, federalism will paralyse the foreign and defence policies of all European nations. With Britain and France shackled, the paralysis will spread to the UN and Nato, as we now see.

Now look at the economic perils of monetary union. Today, more than ever, Europe needs divergent monetary policies. Germany needs tight money to control inflation and an overvalued exchange rate to shift resources from its export and manufacturing sectors into housing, infrastructure and retailing to provide for its new citizens in the east.

France and the rest of Europe, by contrast, need low interest rates and cheap currencies. Only with low interest rates can cure Euroclerosis, the vicious circle of underinvestment, mass unemployment, growing subsidies and exploding budget deficits. Only with cheap currencies can they restore their competitiveness against America and Japan. And France needs low interest and exchange rates every bit as desperately as Italy, Britain or Spain.

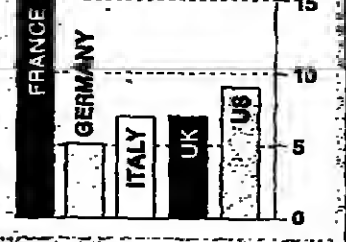
France claims to be fully competitive on export markets. At the present franc-mark exchange rate, judging by its current account, which is roughly in balance, and its competitiveness against Germany, this may seem true. But remember that French unemployment is 3 million and German exporters have been deliberately made uncon-

petitive by the Bundesbank. Also, look closely at the structure of French trade. First, France is more vulnerable than Germany or any other country to recent European devaluations. France sells 30 per cent of its exports to EC countries outside the ERM hard core of Germany, France, Benelux and Denmark. The corresponding figure for Germany is 24 per cent. Consider also the products France exports.

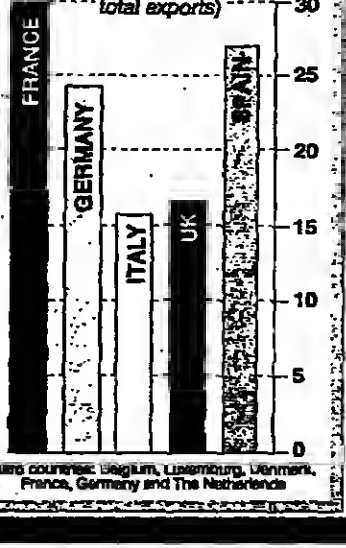
In 1991, 14.6 per cent of French exports were agricultural and food products. These exports are only possible because world farm trade is rigged. If French farm exports were halved, to the same level as Italy and Britain, as they surely would be in the long run, if agriculture were run on market principles and Eastern Europe were integrated into the world economy, France would have a current account deficit almost as big as Britain's. Considering the government subsidies supporting another major source of French exports, the \$10 billion earned by the aerospace industry, France is uniquely vulnerable to any genuine opening of world trade. A lower exchange rate could make France a truly competitive industrial power. There is, of course, an alternative to devaluation — to continue rigging agriculture, to throw subsidies at aerospace and to create a protectionist Fortress Europe.

But think of the geopolitical consequences if this policy, which any French government is bound to follow as long as it tries to maintain the franc fort. Not only could protectionism

## AGRICULTURE AND FOOD EXPORTS



## EXPORTS TO EC COUNTRIES OUTSIDE ERM 'HARD CORE'



## TEMPUS

### That was the recovery

LAST month's 0.3 per cent fall in retail sales dashes any lingering hopes in the government or the City that Britain is on the fast track back to economic prosperity. The recovery is more likely to be along American lines, with a succession of stops, starts, surges and setbacks along the way.

The share market did not like this but it is not necessarily a bad thing. Britain does not need another consumer boom which would fuel inflation and send the trade deficit to dizzy depths. It would profit more from sustainable growth in manufacturing with solid investment and productivity gains.

At present, a high street stampede looks unlikely. The nineties consumers are cannyer than they were a decade ago. They can be tempted back into the shops with bargains, as they were in January, otherwise their concerns

about job security are encouraging them to repay existing debts rather than run up new ones. Recent data from the CBI implies that retail sales growth in the next three months could slow to as little as 0.5 per cent, so retailers may be forced to launch bargain summer sales to keep the momentum going.

The cash and fixed-interest markets welcome poor economic data like this since it reopens the betting that there will be another base rate cut this year. That was the factor behind yesterday's sharp fall in three-month interbank rates, against the recent rising trend. If there is further news of a setback in the recovery in the coming weeks, particularly in manufacturing output, combined with additional German rate cuts, the pressure on the Chancellor for a further reduction in base rates could become intense.

## Bass

THE Bass interim results have a morning after feel. From the takeover euphoria of the late eighties, Bass is now wallowing in a haze with a 14 per cent fall in pre-tax profits.

The management also appears to be affected by the vagueness that accompanies those morning after deliriums. Ian Prosser, the chairman, insisted Bass had gained 0.2 per cent share in the beer market, although he later said it was impossible to calculate the group's overall position precisely. Then he also claimed the group had not discounted as much as its competitors, but could not produce any figures to substantiate this.

Perhaps this is just as well. The figures Bass did manage to produce were alarming enough, prompting many

City analysts to downgrade their full-year forecasts by £50 million to about £510 million. Particularly worrying is the cash outflow of more than £250 million, caused partly by increased capital expenditure but largely by reduced profitability and cash from the operating companies.

With Mr Prosser forecasting continued depression in the European hotel business and only limited recovery in British brewing, the prospects for the full year look little better.

On a prospective p/e ratio of just under 13, the shares reflect this pessimism. Only investors with the patience to wait for a recovery in the depressed brewing and hotel businesses will see this as a good opportunity to buy.

## BASSO PROFUNDO



## Saatchi

WHILE Saatchi's £73 million rights issue was not forecast by the market with the uncanny precision of some of this week's other cash-raising exercises, it has not come as a total shock. Saatchi was faced otherwise with the prospect of a slow crawl out of financial hardship with no spare funds available for sensible investment, while global competition from better funded American and Japanese rivals threatened.

The banks were promised that the company would in due course attempt a rights issue when Saatchi was tying up its borrowing arrangements this year and are still firmly in command. At least they have allowed the group to restore dividend payments by the end of next year as a sop to long-suffering shareholders, some of whom had feared they would have to wait until next century.

Half the rights money will go to cut debt, sensible given that unused tax losses in Britain and America push out in interest charges straight through to attributable profits. The new investments are logical enough, although it is unenvying that there is not more mopping up to be done overseas despite the mammoth earn-outs of

the past four years. Strikingly, the rights issue was accompanied by a downturn in trading statement. Saatchi has repeated that revenues this year will be similar to last. Any improvement in profits will come from turning round the loss-making subsidiaries and from lower severance costs, and only this will provide a platform for those eventual dividend payments.

## Compass

DISHING out canteen meals is hardly a glamorous business, but the contract catering industry has attracted much more excitement — and institutional money — in recent months with the management buyout of Forte's Gardner Merchant and the acquisition of Sutcliffe by Granada.

Compass was said to be interested in both and it is therefore tempting to view its purchase of SAS Service Partner as a consolation prize. SSP's exit p/e ratio of 10 compares very favourably with the multiple of 18 that Granada paid for Sutcliffe and the renowned 20 plus paid for the Gardner Merchant buyout. While SSP does not yield the immediate benefits of scale of a domestic acquisition, the move enables

Compass to enter the continental European market with a company large enough on its own to have the benefits of scale crucial in mass catering. SSP's dominance in Scandinavia also means Compass avoids expensive head-on competition with international companies such as Sodexo and Accor.

## Deutsche Bank

With a 20 per cent increase in operating profits in the first four months of 1993, unchanged bad debt provisions and a suggestion of a dividend increase, Deutsche does not look like a bank whose main market is tumbling into recession. It is certainly faring better than its main customers, as it reaps rewards from its rapid push into eastern Germany following reunification.

If, as Deutsche hopes, the German economy turns the corner at the end of the year, bank profits could continue to advance. But the domestic operations of the British banks turned in tremendous underlying profits in 1989 just as Britain was delving into recession. Bad debts have a nasty habit of following on from recession and unless Deutsche's credit quality systems are unimpeachable, the bank cannot be immune forever.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### D-G becomes just a D G

MARK Bolat, director-general of the Building Societies Association and Council of Mortgage Lenders, is to join the Association of British Insurers in July and lose his hyphen when he becomes the director general of the following month. The ABI, which currently has a chief executive, Mike Jones, decided that it wanted a director general instead. Bolat, who has worked for the Building Societies Association for nearly 20 years, has many ministerial friends who will, no doubt, help when he lobbies on behalf of the insurance industry. He has always been a tireless campaigner on behalf of the mortgage lenders, sometimes at the expense of his private life. Before he married, he once appeared to fall asleep when taking a female friend to the opera, after a busy day. Jones, who has spent 25 years on the Association of British Insurers' staff, is philosophical about not being offered the director general's post. "Tomorrow to fresh woods and pastures new," he quips.

### Honestly

THE Hong Kong Stock Exchange, one of the world's more colourful bourses, has taken the unusual step of censuring and fining a brokerage firm for charging clients too

little. In a display that would send City firms reeling, the exchange fined a member HK\$15,000 (£1,265) and, in a public censure printed in the colony's newspapers, described its conduct as "injurious to the character and interests and prejudicial to the objects of the exchange". One has to feel a little sorry for the brokerage firm. Its name is Great Honest Investment.

### Good term

MORE than 400 City humbirds flocked — if you will forgive the pun — to the Stationers' Hall in central London yesterday to sample the first of the season's gulls' eggs — a bizarre but popular annual ritual sponsored by Sedgwick, Europe's biggest insurance broker. Guests, including Sir Alex Alexander, senior managing director of Lehman



Brothers International, managed to ply their way through more than 1,200 of the sea-blue speckled eggs, courtesy of an anonymous donor in Scotland. "It's something we started four years ago," says Nicholas Bowater, marketing director, private clients, at Credit Suisse Asset Management, and a driving force behind the luncheon. Sir Alex, 76, will have enjoyed himself. He is a former chairman of Ross Foods, which started out selling frozen fish. The event is expected to raise about £20,000 for Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

### Brian's double

THE boy done good... one guaranteed winner from tonight's FA Cup final replay between Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday is Sir Brian Wolfson's Wembley Group. The return of up to 80,000 raving fans to Wembley will mean double the receipts for one of football's more lucrative occasions, but the division of the spoils has caused some debate. Wembley let slip yesterday that it is due one third of the take, with the rest going to the Football Association's coffers. With tickets costing from £10 to £50, industry sources believe the final and replay will rake in at least £2 million each. That would work out at an extra £660,000 for Sir Brian's company. Here we go, here we go...

JON ASHWORTH

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### Weighty matter of presenting results

From Mr R. J. Frearson  
Sir, Your report on the Bank of Scotland's results (Bad debt provisions dent Bank of Scotland results, May 7) makes interesting reading with Mr G. T. Shoosmith's business letter (May 5) about the lavish manner in which company reports are prepared.

A post office told me that my copy of the bank's report and accounts 1992 weighed 429 grammes on which weight first-class postage was £1.08 and second class 84p.

I gathered from page 47 that there were 30,627 ordinary shareholders. I could form no opinion about how many preference stockholders and others were sent reports.

Not that I am trying to create a record of this type but merely to find out how anger can be translated to action which might prevent such robbery by banks?

Your views would be appreciated.  
RICHARD M. PHILIPS, Leggat Hill Farm, Leggat Hill, Penworth, West Sussex.

I counted 41 colour photos, 10 full-page, 1 noted that 30 of the 80 pages were topped by coloured pictures of various branches, most of the margins were over 3cms wide and the lines of print of the governor's statement and treasurer's review (21 pages) were spaced unnecessarily far apart at about 6mm between centres.

While supporting Mr Shoosmith's suggestions I would accept a third sheet showing the directors' shareholdings.  
Yours truly,  
R. J. FREARSON, The Padlock, Sharnford Road, Tur Langton, Leicester.

### Catalyst for prolixity

From Mr Derek Hudson  
Sir, Reading a document from ICI about the proposed merger of Zeneca Group, I find the demerger will "serve as a catalyst for the release of creative management energies". But a few lines later I discover ICI, after the demerger, would anyway, among many other advantages, have a "strong position" in catalysts. Surely, this tiresome word, so popular today, has reared its ugly head once too often?

Yours faithfully,  
DEREK HUDSON, 33 Beacon Hill Court, Hindhead, Surrey.

### Robbery by bank charges

From Mr Richard M. Phillips  
Sir, A lot has been written about the outrageous bank charges levied at their customers these days. I'm wondering if the details of a recent transaction is a record in view of the fact I received £1.08 for a sum of £5.08 credit.

Not that I am trying to create a record of this type but merely to find out how anger can be translated to action which might prevent such robbery by banks?

The letter published yesterday from the Social Market Foundation was from Lord Skidelsky and Mr Liam Halligan.

## Q: Do you sell to the Electricity Industry?

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### Who should attend?

Managers who are responsible for selling to the Electricity Industry.

WHEN : 2nd June 1993  
WHERE : Metropole Hotel, Birmingham  
TIME : 09.30-14.00  
COST : FREE with our compliments  
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The seminar is organised in conjunction with National Power, Powergen, Nuclear Electric, Scottish Nuclear, Northern Ireland Electricity, MANWEB, NORWEB, East Midlands Electricity, Yorkshire Electricity Group, UNESA (Spain), and ESB (Ireland).







السوق من الأصول

# Portfolio Plus

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No	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Rank Org	Industrial	1.00
2	Hammermill	Property	1.00
3	Derwent Hldg	Property	1.00
4	Anglian Water	Water	1.00
5	Lopez	Paper/Print	1.00
6	Procter & Gamble	Consumer Goods	1.00
7	South West	Water	1.00
8	Fortis	Industrial	1.00
9	Hill & Smith	Industrial	1.00
10	Johnson	Mining	1.00
11	British Steel	Industrial	1.00
12	British Steel	Industrial	1.00
13	British Steel	Industrial	1.00
14	British Steel	Industrial	1.00
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Please tick into account any minus signs

Three winners equally share the Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. They are Mr R. Jones, London SW1; Mrs P. Jones, Southampton; and Mr J. Blabber of London N21.

1993 High Low Company Price + - Net Yld P/E

## BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	+ -	Net Yld	P/E
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## BUILDING, ROADS

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## ELECTRICALS

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# Business Services

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539	345	345	Abey Ltd	411	...	11.3	15.3
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# FINANCIAL TRUSTS

402	373	RCO	374	...	12.8
418	115	REA	113	...	...
90	43	Reed Executive	86	...	...
135	113	Reliance Secs	125	+4	...
238	194	Remond	191	-3	2.5
379	349	Riffe & Nolan	360	...	6.2
399	345	Salween (C)	375	-1	7.9
86	29	Seal, Mickford &	30	...	...
250	164	Seapointland	280	...	9.4
5	5	Sedco	6	...	...
988	695	Serra Op	965	-3	13.0
352	252	Shawel Campa	264	-7	...
130	91	Shenley	94	...	3.0
355	310	Warner Howard	320	...	6.5
48	27	Widjco	30	...	0.6
25	14	Witz Op	22	+4	...











# Under stress? Stroke the dog

The choice of a pet should be governed by more than just having the space for it. Ros Drinkwater reports

A prominent financier, teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, claims the only thing that keeps him sane is the affection of his cat. "It isn't even mine," he says. "It climbed in the window one night and adopted me."

The therapeutic value of pets is well documented. An organisation called Pets as Therapy has 7,000 registered dogs that regularly visit hospitals, hospices and residential homes.

Stroking a dog or cat lowers the blood pressure. There are no statistics on the benefits (or otherwise) of keeping a tarantula, but Bruce Fogel, a vet and author of 11 best-selling animal books, advises sticking to domesticated species — cats, dogs, fish, birds and what he calls "warm furries", guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, mice and rats.

Whatever animal you choose, do your homework on its environmental needs and possibly unacceptable habits. Research has shown that rats which were moved from a boring cage to a rat Disneyland developed more brain cells and became more active and alert. Gerbils and guinea pigs should be

kept in social groups, hamsters are solitary creatures. Reptiles, being cold-blooded, need a large investment in heating equipment.

Each year in Britain more animals die from euthanasia than any other cause, usually because of "unpredictable" behaviour — terriers grow too large, untrained dogs bark and show aggression. Even the smallest dog needs a lot of exercise in public places, all that sniffing and leg cocking is an intrinsic part of the canine communication network. Confine a dog to its own territory — a garden — and you deprive it of a basic need.

Mr Fogel cautions against buying solo birds. "Many, including parrots and budgies, are socially gregarious and should be bought in pairs," he says. "Humans make good cat substitutes, reasonably good cat substitutes but lousy bird substitutes. We can't regurgitate seed to show affection as a budgie does."

For those who still hanker after the exotic, adoption is worth considering. For £15 you can adopt a humpback whale. The Whale Adoption Project offers a choice of

50 identified animals that migrate every year between the Caribbean and Canada. The fee, used for scientific research involving sea and aerial surveys, includes a full-colour poster, adoption certificate, car sticker, brochure and illustrated biographies of the animal.

Closer to home, the adoption schemes of conservation-minded zoos have the obvious advantage of being able to visit your "adoptee". London Zoo has 650 species to choose from: £20 will pay for a year's upkeep of a rabbit, mouse or angel fish, or for those that way inclined, a leech, a piranha or a praying mantis. You can buy a £30 share in any animal whose yearly feeding costs are more than £60, such as French and Saunders, the baby penguins in the photograph.

"The breeding of endangered species is the prime mission of the zoo," says Clare Robinson, senior



Adoption scheme: £30 can help pay for the feeding costs of French and Saunders, baby penguins at London Zoo

education officer. "The live animal collection offers the third dimension: it is impossible to get from wildlife films — appreciating the size and the smell of animals most people cannot possibly afford to see in the wild. Adopting is the perfect way for a child to learn respect for wildlife and the importance of conservation."

Back on home ground, holiday time brings that agonizing question

— which kennel? The Featherbed Country Club offers an alternative to either the misery of a concrete hutch or the daff indulgence of the American-style pampered-pooch hotel. For members only, it requires dogs to register for a 24-hour trial period so their temperaments can be assessed.

From dawn to dusk dogs are free to roam two acres of parkland. At night they sleep (with their accom-

panying cat if necessary) in conventionally furnished rooms, the theory being that a house-trained dog will behave if it recognises its surroundings as a house.

Alicia Eykyn, the owner, accepts only neutered dogs. "In the United States all rescued dogs are neutered as a matter of course, and rightly so," she says. "They lose that territorial aggression and are much more socially acceptable." Owners

**FACT FILE**

Pets As Therapy: 0732 848499; London Zoo Adopt an Animal Hotline: 071-586 4443. Whale Adoption Project: PO Box 73, Hargfield, East Sussex TN7 4EY; Fancy Rats Society: (0206 564973); Kong Retrieve Toy, available from Petcare of Chelsea: 071-351 3025; Featherbed Country Club, High Wycombe: 0494 711649; Harrods: 071-730 1234. Recommended new books: RSPCA Complete Dog Care Manual by Bruce Fogel, published by Dorling Kindersley, £12.99 (071-836 5411). The Behaviour of Dogs & Cats by the members of the ABPC (Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors), edited by John Fisher, published by Stanley Paul & Co. £14.99. Favourite Cat Stories, compiled by Lesley O'Mara, published by Pan Books £5.99

have to fill in a four-page questionnaire to ensure their dog has a real "home from home".

When it comes to toys, Harrods pet department should gratify the most demanding need to spend. If the 14-carat gold, diamond-studded dog collar seems a touch excessive at £7,500, how about a cat's Aerobic Centre for £150?

Mr Fogel's choice for a dog is the Roger Muford-designed Kong, a retrieve toy, weighted to bounce at odd angles imitating a rabbit. For cats he recommends the humble ping pong ball. "If you seriously care about your cat," he says, "cover it with fur. Fake fur, of course."

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As part of the World Society for the Protection of Animals, the Library Campaign is dedicated to stamping out this illegal activity.

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## TODAY'S CHOICE

[illegible]



# BERLIN GALLERIES: John Russell Taylor on 20th-century American art; plus recommended shows

## BERLIN CHOICE

### WEGE DER MODERNE

Grandest of Swiss dealers in modern art, Ernst Beyeler is eager to endow a museum for his collection in his home town of Basel.

Unfortunately the idea has run into a certain amount of resistance, as some locals feel its presence may disrupt a cat museum in the same grounds, so there will be a referendum to resolve the issue in June. Meanwhile, the cream of the collection is on show in Berlin.

Like *Hamlet* it is full of quotations, since many of the Klee, Picassos, Giacomettis and Bacos are overwhelmingly familiar in reproduction. The same could be said of many of the earlier works, the Monets, Cézannes and Douanier Rousseau's immortal image of the hungry lion. All in all, such amazing riches that even a cat museum might well eventually be persuaded to allow them proximity.

Neue Nationalgalerie, Potsdamer Strasse 50 (30-266266/3) Tuesday-Friday 9am-8pm, Saturday-Sunday 10am-8pm, until August 1.

### VON CASPAR DAVID FRIEDRICH BIS FERDINAND HODLER

Like several other notable collections at the moment (the Lille pictures at London's National Gallery, for instance), the Oskar Reinhart collection at Winterthur is able to tour abroad because its building is being elaborately reconditioned.

The contents are virtually all 19th-century, from the mystical Romanticism of Friedrich and the more everyday observations of the Biedermeier painters,

through to the Impressionism of Liebermann and the Jugendstil of Hodler.

At the Alte Nationalgalerie it complements very well the existing in-house collection, and adds a number of Swiss painters less well-known in other countries, including such as Cuno Amiet and Alberto's father, Diego Giacometti, dazzling colourists both.

Alte Nationalgalerie, Museuminsel, Bodestraße 1-3 (30-20335257/307) Tuesday-Friday 9am-8pm, Saturday-Sunday 10am-8pm, until September 12.

### DIE ETRUSKER UND EUROPA

In the succession of the great Fiat-sponsored shows at the Palazzo Grassi, "The Phoenicians" and "The Celts", this exhibition dedicated to the Etruscans curiously is not shown in Venice but only in Paris and Berlin.

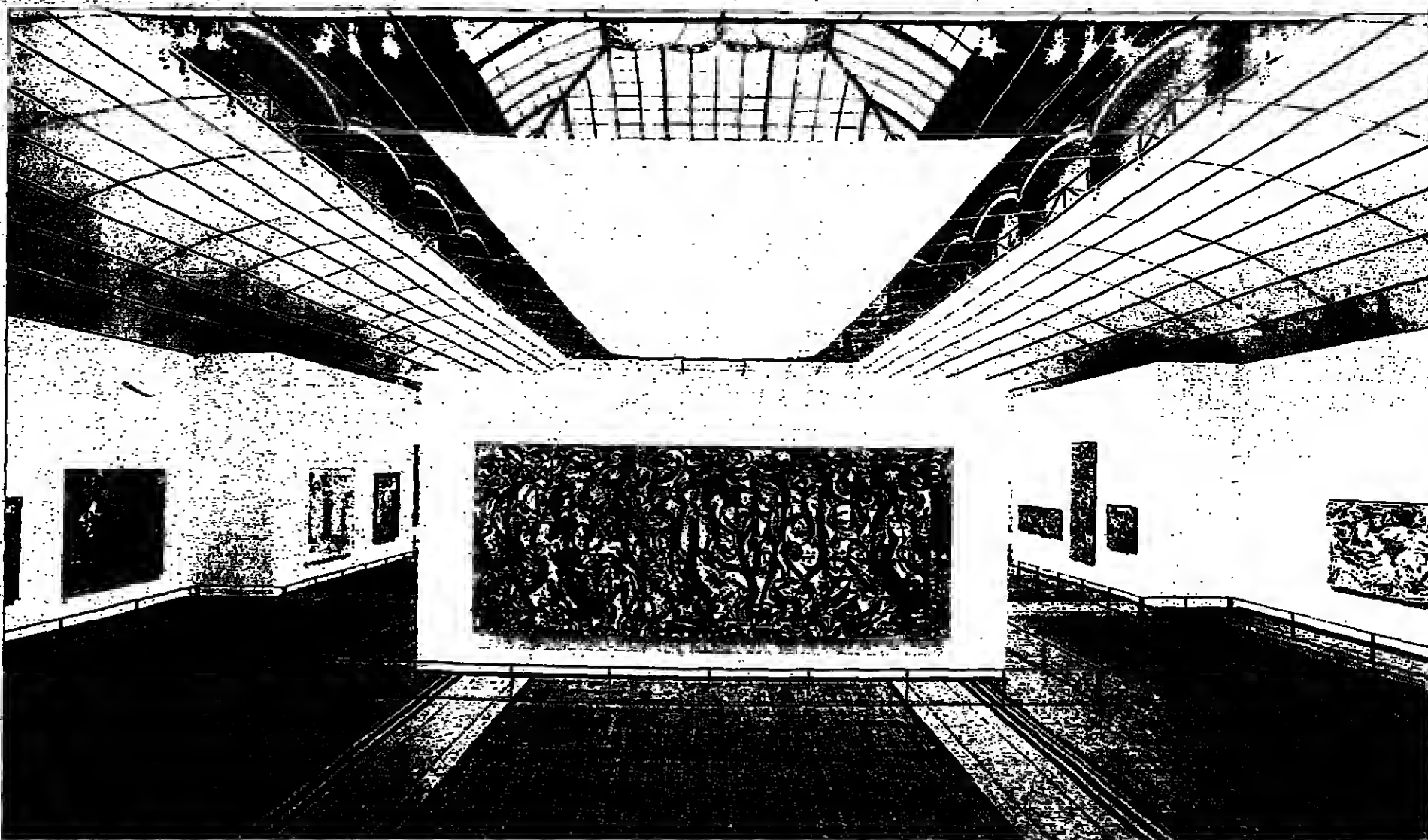
In certain respects it is more approachable than either of its predecessors, mainly because the part concerned with the art and funerary arrangements of the Etruscans themselves — fascinating but often obscure — is balanced by a detailed account of their rediscovery, from the Renaissance on.

It is intriguing to see which examples of the relics of Etruscan civilisation were deemed worthy of collection by the Medici, and how the Romantic sensibilities of 19th-century recorders subtly modified the records they made. Illuminating though the exhibition is, the Etruscan mystery remains enjoyably undisputed.

Altes Museum, Lustgarten (30-203355-0) Tuesday-Sunday 10am-7pm, until May 31.



Mystical Romanticism: a painting by Caspar David Friedrich from the Oskar Reinhart collection



The Abstract Expressionist installation: the large central atrium space of the Martin-Gropius-Bau has been ingeniously cut down to size by a diaphanous vault of false ceiling

## The irresistible taste of America

It has often been said of Picasso that what made him great was not so much the peaks (though they were many) as the gesture of his whole life in art, the unthinkingly generous, total outpouring of everything that was in him. Much the same might be said of American Art in the 20th Century, the subject of the major exhibition which has just opened at the Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin, and will arrive in London at the Royal Academy in September.

The main initial criticism of the show in Germany has been that there are "too many masterpieces" — as though one could ever have too many. But there is no doubt that this demanding collection gives the impression of staying almost exclusively on the heights. Like its predecessors of German, British and Italian art in the 20th century it has a not-quite-hidden agenda, which is to convince us that here at the end of the century we are living in the best of all possible artistic worlds.

In this case, though, the promotion of the latest as at least equal to the best is not so blatant. Or perhaps one should say it does not seem so inapposite as it did when Chia and Clemente or Barry Flanagan, Bruce McLean and Gilbert and George were proposed for the same role.

In Berlin at least we are not oversold on Julian Schnabel, Cindy Sherman and Jeff Koons, and with Koons we are spared the ultimate horror of his kitchen/porno celebrations of his marriage to the Italian erotic star turned politician, La Cicciolina, being left to make do with vacuum cleaners in plastic boxes and his stainless steel model train set, courtesy of Jim Beam.

Also, the show is more ruthlessly selective in its approach than those that went before. It states so its masthead that it begins in 1913, but by room four (of 27) we have already arrived at the immediately postwar years of Arshile Gorky and Abstract Expressionism. Not that the contents of the first three smallish rooms are unimpressive. They make it clear that this is to be specifically the story of American modernism. Apart from Hopper, who could hardly be avoided, realists are scrupulously ignored, and painters like Demuth, Sheeler and Marsden Hartley, all of whom had their reality-conscious side, are presented in the light of their yearnings towards abstraction or their sometimes surprising anticipations of Pop Art. All this is fair enough, since a truly comprehensive account of American art since 1900 could hardly be encompassed in the confines of a manageable single show.

Either by accident or by design, the view presented is virtually the consensus of the last major European conspectus of 20th-century American art at Fiat's Lingotto Art Centre in Turin last year. There, the main line of continuity proposed seemed to be the irrepressible vitality and validity

of representation: here one cannot imagine Grant Wood or Ben Shahn finding any comprehensible place.

To be fair, the story the Berlin show chooses to tell makes perfect sense. Stripped of irrelevancies and intriguing byways, it presents the streamlined view in which Precisionists were speeding headlong toward abstraction, and the imported Surrealists (who put in a tentative appearance) as well as the homegrown Regionalists (who are relegated to a footnote) justify their existence mainly by providing a peripheral influence on the Abstract Expressionists.

The latter are admirably presented, mostly in the large central atrium space of the Martin-Gropius-Bau, which has been ingeniously cut down to size by the insertion of a diaphanous vault of false ceiling. This leaves one conscious of the distant skylights if one wants to be, but fashions a gallery which will not dwarf the often gigantic canvases of Pollock, Still, Newman, Rothko and others.

This is where the caveat of too many masterpieces might be entered. All the classic Abstract Expressionists have been selected to show at their

absolute best: no suspicion here that Barnett Newman is frequently a rather boring painter, that not every Rothko colour field is equally palpitating with secret life, that Clyfford Still seems to have built his whole career on just one image, albeit skilfully varied, of a volcanic rift in the landscape.

Perhaps because it was selected by two Europeans, Norman Rosenthal and Christos Joachimides, the show is little concerned with political correctness. Notably, out of 66 artists included, only five are women and only three black, which is realistic, if not very tactful.

After the Abstract Expressionists the excitement comes thick and fast. Artists related to the Pop movement are represented mostly by their earlier and better works: brilliantly throwaway and quirky Rauschenbergs, print, precise and beautifully crafted Jasper Johnses, and an irresistible assemblage of Oldenburg's soft sculptures of food.

Frank Stella is shown in this context, with three of his early black-and-white paintings, which still look very good, and also crops up later with a couple of his dimensional glitter pieces, which are by no means

so convincing. Then we are on to Pop proper, with several of Lichtenstein's most familiar comic-strip paintings, a range of Marilyns, Elvises, Coke bottles and Campbell's Soup tins from Warhol, and one of Edward Ruscha's distinctively Californian tributes to the movies in their heyday.

In this context a handful of Robert Rymans' white paintings look better by contrast than when given a whole show to themselves at the Tate recently. Nearly everywhere in the exhibition, indeed, it is the skilfully staged contrasts which bring out the true flavour of America. There are some of Donald Judd's minimal sculptures, Dan Flavin's neon installations, and even one of Carl Andre's assemblages of metal floor plaques (from which the attendants reverentially shoo visitors, contrary to Andre's own intentions).

Almost before one can register James Lee Byars's haunting installation of four black velvet chaises-longues tidily lit by shafts of dusty sunlight, or a single, late, cartoonish Philip Guston, here is graffiti art, followed by Sherman's large photographic pieces and Mike Kelley's suspended bundles of teddy bears, which date from only last year.

Amazingly, there is little sense of ledeven. Taken one by one, some of the more recent pieces might not seem very impressive. But all this variety, all this vitality takes a lot of resisting. Expressions of a consumer society at full rampage, these works are not likeable, but at least they are undeniably there.

● Amerikanische Kunst im 20. Jahrhundert Martin-Gropius-Bau, Stresemannstrasse 110 (30-5486730) daily 10am-8pm, until July 25.

DANCE: John Percival on a short but welcome visit by Nederlands Dans Theater's second company

You will not see a more original ballet this year than Jiri Kylian's *Stamping Ground*, and you will be extremely lucky if you see a better one. The choreography is something to astonish and delight with its revelation of the flexibility and expressiveness of human bodies: skilful, surprising, mysterious and very funny.

This is one of four varied, unusual and interesting works in the first of two programmes by Nederlands Dans Theater 2 at Sadler's Wells this week: what a shame that the stay cannot be longer. Still, it means that British audiences, if only by travelling around the country, have at last been able within a few months to see all three branches of the amazing organisation that Kylian has built up within Nederlands Dans Theater.

The speciality of NDT2 is that it employs only young dancers, from 17 to 21, but all of them good enough to be considered as potential recruits to the furiously sought-after main NDT company. Young means inexperienced,

"WHAT on earth was that?" asks Trevor, realising he has just been lovingly mouthed to mouth with a woman old enough to be his mother and whom he only set eyes on five minutes back. That is also how you feel encountering David Cregan's *Nice Dorothy*, surprised, bewildered, incredulous, not sure you should like it, but it certainly feels good.

Cregan's laughter quota is very high. One-liners abound, sometimes at the expense of character, in what is essentially a sex farce with a touch of sitcom. Judy and Billie are round at Harriet's place in Swiss Cottage. They are having a small civilised hen party, only Billie keeps waiting about her boyfriend who has left her.

## Pleasures of youth

NDT2  
Sadler's Wells

so there is only limited emotional depth and subtlety in this programme, but it also means fresh, lively and bursting with energy, so audiences are in no way short-changed.

The quality of the works they perform obviously develops the dancers' range. Some come from NDT's enviable rich key repertoire; others are made specially by established choreographers or hopeful aspirants within NDT.

A piece like *Stamping Ground* makes high demands on the cast. Inspired by Australian aboriginal dances, it asks its six dancers to twist, stretch, shrink, kick, jump and indulge a multiplicity of other movements with uncanny timing and unpredictability, seeming at once like strange animals and yet intensely human.



Jardi Tancat: the harsh sadness and pride of Catalonia

man. After beginning in silence, they are driven on by Carlos Chavez's *Toccata* for percussion instruments.

In another ballet by Kylian, *Un Ballo*, two short pieces by

Ravel establish a background of formality against which the unexpected twists, directness and sometimes pugnacity of the partnering provide a piquant contrast.

## THEATRE

## Mixing and matching

Nice Dorothy  
Orange Tree,  
Richmond

man and living in Luton" — is suddenly having passionate sex with a 25-year-old stud. Judy, formerly coquette and cool, is throwing tantrums, and the shy, humdrum Hugh is standing on benches shouting "Blitz!"

The humour is occasionally

cheap, some scenes are tiresomely silly, and the craftsmanship of both writing and directing has rough edges. Yet part of *Nice Dorothy*'s novelty is its cranky blend of genres. They may not always gel but the combination keeps you on your toes. Contemporary sitcom is infused with humorous echoes of Restoration comedy: unlikely love at first sight and *en masse* marriages at the finale; and characters who are ruled by humour — the tearful, the

Folksongs from contrasted traditions underlie the other two works on this programme. Nacho Duato's *Jardi Tancat* offers the harsh sadness, pride and determination of his native Catalonia. Its bleakness is offset by a sense of purpose and comradeship as the dancers respond to Maria del Mar Bonet's singing.

"Greensleeves" and the like send Ohad Naharin's *Passamezzo* cheerfully on its way as a cheeky, sexy and highly independent duet for a thoroughly modern couple, full of wit and swagger, expressed in movement that switches swiftly from joky little steps to sudden big twists.

Tessa Cooke and Dylan Newcomb are Naharin's self-confidently able couple. Megumi Nakamura and Miguel Rodriguez lead the cast of *Un Ballo*; and in *Stamping Ground* they are joined by Catherine Rissi and Urzi Aranburu. Rissi, small, vivid, amazingly subtle and controlled in three different roles, is the big discovery of the evening: a real potential star in the making.

## nympomaniacal, the nice.

Most of the characters are two-dimensional, but David Timson (Roy, Hugh's friend) cuts through with some angry intensity and Timothy Watson, despite some shushy lines, acts Trevor's love with sincerity. Cregan deserves applause for integrating serious statements on love, sex, being dined and bridging the generation gap within an evening that is really entertaining.

Apologies to Joe Cushtley whose dynamic sweaty performance in *Oktoberfest* was praised under the wrong name. Joe Cushtley played the Freak Show's master of ceremonies, not its Proprietor.

KATE BASSETT

## THE TIMES

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# More than is dreamt of in their philosophy

Caroline Moore welcomes two works by scholars who think Shakespeare means something and who reject deconstruction

Brian Vickers has written a splendidly splenetic, intellectually swinging all-out attack on the perversions of current literary theory. I only wish I could say that he is flogging a dead horse. He ought to be as he makes clear, all the credentials of the founding fathers of structuralism and post-structuralism have already been professionally questioned, not to say thoroughly debunked. If this particular corpse has the illusion of life, it is only because it is pulling with maggots. (Professor Vickers's style is infectious: his frustrated scorn, though generally channelled into rational argument, boils over in occasional intemperate similes.)

Indeed, when one tries to sum up, for those Times readers who somehow missed the Great Cambridge Structuralist Debate of 1981, the sort of views which were once so fashionable, one can only share Vickers's wonder at intellectuals' propensity to believe in the emperor's new (French) clothes. Imagine, then, a heady theories based upon an insensibly deterministic view of language. Language is in total control, the rail wagging the dog. It not merely influences the way we apprehend reality; it is its own reality. It cannot, in fact, refer to or describe anything "out there", but is a self-contained, non-referential system. There is no such thing as an author, since no one can "use" language; language uses us, by "fascistic" compulsion. No one can "mean" anything; indeed, the very notion of an individual who could have anything to say is a bourgeois illusion. There can be no distinction between works of literature and any other written works. All are created by the same impersonal process: circulation of a limited number of linguistic counters; everything written is only a tissue of quotations. Imagine, in short, a theory which attempts to abolish all ideas of self, subject, author, imagination, story and history; all creativity and all meaning.

How, you may well ask, can one then discuss a text? Well, if you are a deconstructionist, you look at what the words do not say, probing its "fissures", its self-negating contradictions. In the process, it is imperative to expose some species of ideological bad faith. This, however, is easy; for whichever Marxist-feminist-Freudian amalgam you choose to foist upon the work is by definition a heads-I-win, tails-you-lose closed system, defying verification or falsification. Indeed, you often do not even have to refer too closely to the text itself, for this is merely the "positivist" illusion of "philological accuracy".

The obvious ploy is to point out that such critics naturally assume that they themselves are immune from their own general rules. No feminist admits that she or he is "conditioned" to hold his or her views; most cultural materialists still behave as individuals. But in fact, critics from the Derridian-Foucaultian-Lacanian-Freudian complex of schools suffer a fate far worse than inconsistency. Their creeds are self-fulfilling prisons. In their writings, one can find the closest approximation to the impossible notions of literature they propound. Here is language as a

**APPROPRIATING SHAKESPEARE**  
Contemporary Critical Quarrels  
By Brian Vickers  
Yale University Press, £35

**SHAKESPEARE**  
Poet and Citizen  
By Victor Kiernan  
Verso, £19.95

"système pour le système", which has no purchase upon any outside reality, in life or literature. Here is the spectacle of writers whose individuality is trampled into submission by herds of great lumbering phrases ("decentred discourse" and the like). Here, "intertextuality" — criticism as a tissue of quotations from other critics — reigns supreme, and the "discourse" is indeed riddled with "fissures" of self-contradiction.

The first two chapters of *Appropriating Shakespeare* discuss theory; the last five show various critical schools at work, dismembering Shakespeare. The funniest sections are those detailing psychoanalytical approaches. Those of you who overlooked the significance of the tattooed penis in *Hamlet* can now catch up. Now that I know that Desdemona's handkerchief is a phallus-endowing fetish I shall never feel the same about the Kleenex in my handbag again.

It is a relief to turn to Victor Kiernan's book, *Shakespeare: Poet and Citizen*. Kiernan's attitudes are those of a liberal-humanist-Marxist, a category so outdated as to seem almost oxymoronic. His



A scene from *Measure for Measure*, directed by Michael Bogdanov at Stratford, Ontario in 1983: the picture shows "the club", a prologue in which the audience was invited to dance on stage. From *Looking at Shakespeare: a visual history of twentieth century performance* by Dennis Kennedy (Cambridge University Press, £45)

thesis is that Shakespeare was a "progressive" — but for his faith in humanity, not for modishly self-undermining nihilism.

Yet Professor Kiernan's old-fashioned faith in the existence of Shakespeare as an author leads to the belief that he knows when Shakespeare is voicing his own "progressive" views. It may often be a safe rule that what his characters say when playing an active part in the story belongs to them: when they turn away to generalities, the ideas are likely to be his. The final test of when Shakespeare believed, or took seriously, what his men and women were saying, must always be his language, and how much conviction it carries.

On this test, however, *Ulysses*' great set speech on *Deceit* would be "Shakespeare's view", which Kiernan would (in many ways rightly) deny. In practice, much of the evidence for Shakespeare as progressive has elements of wishful reading. He does not, for example, show prescience of the later career of Shirley Temple by sending the princess in *Love's Labour's Lost* on an important diplomatic mission (to Navarre), centuries before the appointment of any real women to ambassadorial

posts". The real King of Navarre received two embassies, in 1578 and 1586, first from the Princess Marguerite of Valois and then from her mother, Catherine of Medici.

The real point is that deciding whether or not Shakespeare is "progressive" is rather inappropriate. As Kiernan himself writes, "two opposite pictures of England fit through the histories: an ideal one of what the country might be, a gloomy one of what it is". A progressive would project the ideal picture into the future, with faith in its attainment; Shakespeare more usually projects the ideal vision back into the past, often in a context which suggests it may be an illusory golden age.

But if I wish to join issue with Kiernan on numerous interpretations, this is itself a refreshing change. He has plenty of suggestive remarks to make about such things as the Renaissance concepts of honour and romantic love, and about Shakespeare's depiction of an England "stumbling awkwardly between two eras" (though there have already been several full-length books on all these topics). I hope that, as a progressive, Kiernan will not mind that I found his study most delightfully — and readably — old-fashioned.

## Our man on the Rock

Lucy Hughes-Hallett

**THE HIGH FLYER**  
By Nicholas Shakespeare  
Harvill, £14.99

A diplomat near the end of his career, a decent man, a man with a conscience, whose carefully-planned life has been derailed by a futile passion, finds himself alone and adrift in a small, far-away place. We have been here before, not specifically to the consul's residence in Alysia, a Spanish enclave on the southern Pillar of Hercules, (occupying the space where you will find Centa marked on your map), but to this imaginary experience of principled self-contempt in god-forsaken hot places. Nicholas Shakespeare's debt to Graham Greene is enormous; so is his borrowing from Evelyn Waugh. His setting, his characters, his tone of mingled flippancy and mortal seriousness all proclaim his gratitude to his two creditors.

So does his narrative technique. Shakespeare is thirty-something, but in his novel he successfully projects himself into the consciousness of a man in late middle age and writes with sympathy and gusto about the sexual passions of the not-so-young. More remarkably he aligns himself with the

school of the generation before last. With the *fin de siècle* looming he has written a mid-twentieth-century novel, and done it so well as to make it seem quite the natural thing. Who needs experimentation and snazzy new forms when grandpa's suitcase is still stout enough to contain and deliver such a richly enjoyable load of emotion and wit?

Not that Shakespeare is oblivious of modern preoccupations and manners. His richly-varied minor characters owe much to the matter-of-fact bizarerie of South American fiction. The disgraced diplomat's name is Thomas Wavery, and during our first encounter with him one of Gibraltar's famous apes steals his passport. He is not the only inhabitant of Alysia (a tiny patch of Europe in Africa) whose sense of self and of where they

stand in the world wavers. Everyone has a secret life, an "other reality", as Wavery's mistress refers to his wife.

Shakespeare's generally careful, unobtrusive prose erupts into purple extravaganzas as it follows his characters' inner lives — the underwater epiphanies of the barfly-cum-diver-cum-secret agent, the terrible memories of the flower seller, a *pietist* whose husband died in Algeria, the Russian émigrée's nostalgic fantasies. Wavery despairs finally because he no longer has an alternative reality. His long-looked-forward-to retirement, gardening in Sintra, is now impossible. England is not home and, for reasons it would be unfair to reveal, his love affair is untenable, even as a consoling daydream of what might have been.

Shakespeare has invented a richly detailed, remarkably complete imaginary world. Readers know not only the Europeans tossing coins to the boys in the roadside dust; they also know the boys, cool, funny and potent at once. *The High Flyer* is a throwback, but an impressively robust one.

## Rigorous, lucid, candid and dangerous

John Casey

**LIFE'S DOMINION**  
An Argument about Abortion and Euthanasia  
By Ronald Dworkin  
HarperCollins, £17.50

America is divided over abortion as it has been since slavery. Abortion clinics are picketed, even bombed, and abortionists are accused of mass-murder. In their turn pro-lifers are dismissed by their opponents as mad, or as haters of the female sex. Amid such frenzy, Ronald Dworkin's ambition must seem quixotic. He aims at nothing less than to convince both sides that they have misunderstood their own beliefs. They might even come to a historic compromise.

Dworkin's chance of success must be rated as rather less than that of St Francis of Assisi when he attempted to convert the Sultan of Egypt to Christianity. Dworkin's arguments are nevertheless extremely powerful. Central to his book is a sustained attack on the belief that a fetus, from the first moment of its conception, is a person. This is the present teaching of the Roman Catholic Church — the most powerful and principled opponent of abortion. If it is true, it follows that the fetus has the same rights, and the same claim to protection from the state as has any other helpless human being. If Catholic doctrine is true, the pro-abortionists are at best confused, at worst mentally or morally corrupt. Hence the ferocity of the debate.

The great majority of pro-lifers, including most practising Catholics, allow exceptions — to save the mother's life, or in cases of rape, or where the child will be born (say) without a cerebral cortex. Yet no one believes that it is right to kill one person to protect another, or to dispose of a new-born baby because it is the product of rape. Dworkin concludes that the pro-lifers, whatever they say, do not really believe

that the fetus is invariably a person. Their public rhetoric has broken free from their actual moral convictions.

Dworkin tries to turn their flank. He argues persuasively that the church, which bases much of its argument against abortion on Aquinas and Aristotle, has in modern times departed radically from both philosophers. Against Plato, who thought that a human soul could exist detached from a body, Aquinas argued that the soul is logically related to the form of the body. No power — even God's — could embody a human soul in a tree, or in a rabbit, or in a male sperm. It can be incarnated only in that which has the shape, organs and capacities of the human body. The human person for Aquinas is a body-soul identity.

Analogously, a true follower of Aquinas can deny that the fetus is a person from the moment of its conception, and can hold instead that it becomes one only when the brain and other organs have developed to a point which allows it to live the intellectual and spiritual life of a human being. It is not absurd to assume — as our own abortion law does — that this point occurs only at a fairly late stage of pregnancy.

This negative part of Dworkin's argument is powerful, and will need to be answered. What of the positive part — his offer to discover a belief about abortion shared



Ronald Dworkin: liberal views on the meaning of life

by liberals and conservatives? Dworkin thinks that we all share, perhaps unconsciously, an ideal: that human life is sacred. We can get the idea of the sacredness of life from believing in a Creator whose gift life is, and whose most complex and wonderful work is man. Or we can find sacredness in art, or in human

cultures or animal species, which it would be intrinsically shameful to destroy.

"Life" includes two differing ideas. First there is biological life — which the human fetus has fully from the first moment of conception, and which includes the genetic coding that drives forward and controls its development.

But "life" also includes our capacities to live as distinctively human beings, to have desires and aspirations which are not purely biological — relations with other people, culture, and our desire to shape our own lives according to our free will. A human being condemned to live a purely "biological" life would scarcely be human at all.

Dilemmas about abortion and euthanasia often reflect these two senses of "life". Biological life may conflict with a fully human life. A baby with a beating heart but no cerebral cortex is denied the satisfactions distinctive to human beings, above all, human autonomy. An old man with Alzheimer's disease, reduced to the level of an infant, has lost that dignity which is essential to human beings.

Dworkin's conclusion — apparently paradoxical — is that to keep a baby without a brain alive, or to ignore the previously expressed wishes to be allowed to die of a patient who has since developed Alzheimer's disease, is actually to deny life's sacredness. For to respect the sacredness of life includes respecting human autonomy. This entails respecting the ideals individuals evolve about their own lives, rather than imposing upon them an existence which may end in agony or idiocy.

are frivolous. The institution of abortion in our society does not in reality reflect a sense of the sacredness of human life, biological or otherwise, but exists overwhelmingly for convenience. Very few abortions are actually unavoidable.

Dworkin cautiously favours people being educated into a respect for the sacredness of life. A conservative might argue that a civilised society is one in which the sexual mores themselves promote this respect, in which the centrality of marriage is recognised and promiscuity abhorred. His idea might be to reduce abortions to a fraction of the present numbers.

There is an innocence, a sort of moral tenuousness, in Dworkin's book which allows him to avert his gaze from what might be a huge moral corruption in our society. People might be very ready to give a notional assent to the respect for the sanctity of life which he recommends, while their real moral sentiments allowed millions of frivolous abortions, and, in due course, euthanasia for old people who feel that they have become a burden to their relatives.

Dworkin has written a much more dangerous book than appears. To say that of a philosopher is — of course — to pay him a high compliment.

John Casey is the author of *Pagan Virtue: An Essay in Ethics* (OUP)

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# Ups and downs in City Road

J. W. M. Thompson is gripped by a journalist's revenge on his colleagues, but wonders whether they strayed out of TV drama

Most journalists will find this book enthralling; some others will think it takes itself and its subject a shade too seriously. Stephen Glover is one of the three men from the old *Daily Telegraph* who in 1986 achieved the rare feat of founding their own newspaper, *The Independent*. Sadly, it is not altogether unpredictably, the three quarrelled after a time and Glover quit the enterprise with much bitterness and grief. This is more than "the story of *The Independent* and *The Independent* on Sunday". It is also an essay in self-justification and a settling of old scores: an act of revenge.

As any journalist knows, other people's quarrels are at least as interesting as their successes. The office warfare which led to Glover's departure produced some striking scenes. I suspect the whole thing could probably be turned into another television drama of corporate life (*City Road*, perhaps), replete with boardroom clashes, weeping executives and so forth. Indeed, the participants seem often to have strayed from the world of TV drama. They are for ever holding tense meetings in private rooms in expensive hotels, receiving urgent messages on their car telephones, or discussing deals over meals at the Savoy Grill. It is all curiously fraught.

What had gone wrong to cloud the original happy mood? Briefly, *The Independent's* circulation fell back, advertising revenue shrank, and the company began to register alarming losses; and they had rashly launched a Sunday paper (which Glover edited) to add to their burdens. All this produced a mood sharply different from the early euphoria, when Andreas Whitam Smith, the leader of the three founders, blithely announced: "I think we should buy *The Times*." Instead the talk was of cost-cutting, of redundancies, of possibly closing the Sunday paper, or selling it off, or finding yet another source of fresh capital. There were bruising disagreements and in the end the decision to integrate the Sunday paper with the daily led to Glover's angry exit. The papers survived, the early spirit of high adventure evidently did not.

Glover captures very well the heated atmosphere in a newspaper office at such times of financial crisis. Having lived through a few myself, I recognise the details — the torrent of wild rumours (journalists are astonishingly credulous about their own affairs), the endless gossip, the self-conscious staff meetings, and above all the sense of lurking drama. People in other industries go through such crises all the time and not many books are written about them. But journalists tend to be secret romantics about their calling and treat the affairs of a "great newspaper" with a reverence they accord to little else. Hence Glover writes of office skulduggery and struggles for power within what *Private Eye* mocks as the *Indescribably boring*.

The dominant, enigmatic figure in the story is Andreas

**PAPER DREAMS**  
By Stephen Glover  
Jonathan Cape, £17.99

Whitam Smith, who was *The Daily Telegraph's* City editor when he had the idea of founding *The Independent*, using the low-cost modern technology which existing papers, locked into the age of Caxton by the print unions, were then denied. It was a brilliant notion and he carried it through with aplomb. Glover depicts him as a blend of a sort of lofty innocence and powerful ambition, far more interested in power than in money, and he reflects, not kindly, upon the transformation of "Andy Smith, turned down for officer training during National Service because he supposedly did not have leadership qualities" into "the dignified and aloof personage of Andreas Whitam Smith". It is not a friendly portrait. The portrayal of Matthew Symonds, the third founder, is no more flattering. Nothing, Glover writes, would persuade him to work again with either of them. It was not, one could say, a happy ship.

The paper's financial strains, however, are blamed upon the recession. Another important factor was that the competing newspapers had, by then, moved into more favourable circumstances. Rupert

Murdoch's migration to Wapping changed everything. If *The Independent* was "the child of the *Telegraph*", subsequently the *Telegraph* went on to its own revolution and ceased to be a soft target. Other papers did likewise.

Glover gives an engaging picture of life in the *Telegraph's* Fleet Street building in the old days. For writers, he says, it was in many ways an idyllic world. The trouble was that the unions, with their unrelenting grip on the production process, were choking the life out of it. It was a fearful example of workers' control. As editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, I often felt that our real opposition came not from the other papers but from the unions within our own building.

*Paper Dreams* is stylishly written and often entertaining, as in the account of the arrival as major investors of the "southern Europeans" (newspaper groups from Spain and Italy). But chiefly one remembers the acid portrait of Whitam Smith, together with the unhappy atmosphere of squabbles and rivalries in which they all seem to have existed. (Amazingly, it is suggested that Glover's fate was sealed when he had the prime minister to lunch with some of the Sunday journalists and neglected to invite anyone from the daily.)

It is necessary to remember that this book gives only a one-sided view, if a persuasive one. Glover recognises that in the end the practical matters they were ostensibly quarrelling about were not the real issues, which were "enmity and old friendships gone sour".

The developing rift with his colleagues was evidently embittering and painful to him. He likens it to "a horrifying expedition during which all one's worst fears about former friends are confirmed". I suppose it was not much fun for the former friends, either. Everyone concerned, writes Glover, had to learn that even a newspaper founded by three journalists did not operate by different laws and that "like everything else it was part of the fallen world". A pretty obvious conclusion, you might think; but it is the nearest thing to a moral in this sad tale.

J. W. M. Thompson was editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, 1976-86.



Stephen Glover: found that *The Independent* "like everything else... was part of the fallen world"

## The art of turning the tables

Tom Rhodes

**THE MONEY SPINNERS**  
How Professional Gamblers beat the Casinos at their own Game  
By Jacques Black  
Faber, £12.99

Gambling, for the vast majority of us at least, tends to be confined to the occasional flutter on *The Grand National*, the minimalist wager on a point of fact, or an amateur game of blackjack. It is with some trepidation, therefore, that one picks up a book entirely devoted to the mysterious world of bankroll, card counting and the Bernoulli system.

Professional gamblers are prepared to lose thousands without flinching. They are unquestionably a people obsessed. Any book on the subject written by a professional cannot fail to be touched by that obsession, which is probably why this ranges from being a fascinating *tour d'horizon* of the industry to becoming, at times, a rather tedious catalogue of gambling systems. The author, writing under the less than original nom de plume of Jacques Black, has clearly spent much of his time — when not working as a loan officer for the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg — practising his probability theories in most London casinos, from which he has since been banned.

There is little doubt that "Black" has not merely studied his methods with mathematical precision — as one might expect from his successes — he has also learnt from ultimate practitioners of the art.

He has analysed the antics of William Nelson Darnborough, the winner of a fortune on roulette. Nick "the Greek" Dandolos who netted half a million dollars on the turn of a single poker card and Dr Edward O. Thorp, the impoverished physicist postgraduate at UCLA who sought to "shatter the chains of poverty through a scientifically based winning gambling system." His haunts were not Wembley or Lords, but the Golden Nugget in Shafesbury Avenue, Charlie Chester's in Soho and Napoleon's in Leicester Square.

But this book does not, and nor could it, confine itself to the mundane salons of Britain. Black successfully outlines the history of the casino, from its 1808 inception at the Palais Royal in Paris to the Kursaal in Homburg, the Grand Casino at Monte Carlo and the 20th century tiras of Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

For those who have, out of interest rather than addiction, watched people gamble away their fortunes in the larger casinos, *The Money Spinners* does provide a revealing insight into this powerful demi-monde. But by the nature of its authorship, this does tend towards the specialist. While the appendices, taking up one third of the book, offer a simple guide to games and how to beat the system, the descriptions of these in practice are largely of interest to the serious devotee.

Amid all his cautionary tales about giving up roulette, Jacques Black, whoever he may be, is still prepared to offer the following bold advice: "If you must go on gambling, consider taking up a positive expectation game — that is a game where the gambler can, under certain conditions, gain an edge over the bank. A game such as blackjack." Gamblers, after all, will be gamblers.

## Heroes but no hero worship

Angus Macintyre

**MARLBOROUGH**  
By J. R. Jones  
Cambridge University Press, £25  
**PITT THE ELDER**  
By Jeremy Black  
Cambridge University Press, £25  
**WILLIAM TEMPLE**  
By John Kent  
Cambridge University Press, £25

charm and body to please the powerful women in Charles II's court. Pitt's weapons were his studied, classical oratory ("splendid verbiage", according to one witness) and a populist appeal which he could turn off as well as on. Both claimed to act above party interests. Marlborough was a master of ambiguity, a match for the French in the techniques of *chicanerie*; he also needed to keep his European military mission as separate as

possible from the fierce partisanship of politics at home. Pitt's fetish of his "independence" was also partly calculated, although he was really a whig of "Revolution principles", the Revolution of 1688.

Marlborough could make no such claim: his treachery to James II helped to make 1688 possible, but he would have been equally ready to serve a restored Stuart. Real power came to both men late (in their fifties); both clung on too long as power ebbed away from them. Their characters could hardly have been more different. Marlborough was a coolly intelligent and avaricious calculator, whose mask was dropped (together with his breeches, on returning from war) for his duchess, Sarah. The influence of her strong will and erratic mind is perhaps underestimated here. The excellent accounts of his generalship — careful preparations, tactical mobility, and the ruthless intensity of his battles would have been helped by maps.

Pitt was mercurial, morally respectable, often seriously ill, careless about money. Always certain of his opinions, particularly when he had changed them, he was contemptuous of nearly all other politicians. His great strength was his single-minded direction of decisions towards grand strategic aims. Jeremy Black's nuanced account is of a man with remarkable gifts and flaws who did not have greatness thrust on him.

William Temple was cast in a less heroic mould. A good, energetic man with the social conscience common among his class and generation (Rugby, along with R.H. Tawney and Balliol, where he absorbed Hegel d'Anglaise laced with Platonism), he wanted the Church of England to express the values of an organic, national community, based on greater social equality. Before his death in 1944 after only two years as Archbishop of Canterbury, he had helped to lay some of the foundations of the welfare state. He now stands accused by Corelli Barnett as one of those who encouraged the British after 1945 to choose welfare instead of economic reconstruction.

This trio whets the appetite for more. Which women will be given lives, and what will "British" turn out to mean?



Marlborough: "The Duke... did pleasure me in his top boots."

Modern biographies are often chest-crushers. These three, the first volumes in a new Cambridge series, *British Lives*, edited by Maurice Cowling and John Vincent — prove that shorter biographies can be friendly to readers and of high quality as well.

J. R. Jones is as interested in Marlborough's diplomatic achievement in holding together an unstable anti-French alliance as in his ability as a commander. Pitt the Elder's career is located by Jeremy Black in a complex political world in which, in Black's perceptive view, Pitt was an "outsider" by background, temperament, and calculation. As a theologian, John Kent has some sharply critical things to say about Archbishop Temple's theological positions, but his main focus is on Temple as a reformer of church and society.

The careers of Marlborough and Pitt reveal striking similarities. Both changed the course of history: Marlborough by the string of victories from Blenheim in 1704 to Malplaquet in 1709, which halted Louis XIV's drive for the mastery of Europe; Pitt by his leadership during the Seven Years' War when "America was won in Germany". Both rose by their own wits and devices. Marlborough used his

## The stupidest party?

John Biffen

**THE FABER BOOK OF CONSERVATISM**  
Edited by Kenneth Baker  
Faber, £17.50

would have done well to limit their number in this book (there are more than 160) and to have himself provided a more substantial commentary linking the authors. I am convinced that Kenneth Baker should proclaim his own political faith from cover to cover and with the candour which is the privilege of a former minister, now a "born again" backbencher.

Meanwhile *The Faber Book of Conservatism* has a merit of its own. It enables Kenneth Baker to argue succinctly the case for a highly civilised form of contemporary Conservatism which has a high regard for property, for wider social values, and for a strong sense of national identity within the European partnership. In respect of the last-mentioned, then Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation that "the central issue was, and it remains, what sort of Europe the party wants — a growing centralised Community, federal in all but name, or a Community of nation states cooperating but not com-



Baldwin, Butler and Macleod: such adroit politicians must be read in context

pelled. The Maastricht negotiations in December 1991 did not resolve this, but the mood in the country and party has shifted to a broader and wider Europe.

Of course none of the extracts that accompany this chapter take any further his tantalising observations, that run to the very heart of the present Conservative European debate. This illustrates the gap there can be between the author's commentary and the texts that accompany it.

Happily there are many chapters where this is not so. In the chapter "Change is our

Ally", Baker writes of the political need for a "reasonable, pragmatic, and sensible approach to change." This is matched by the splendid and spirited sentiments of the Duke of Wellington in 1836: "All that I can hope for is, that the change of this country may be gradual, that it may be effected without civil war, and may occasion as little destruction of individual interests and property as possible."

Baker develops his own brand of Conservatism, which skillfully blends an acknowledged inheritance from both Edward Heath and Margaret

Thatcher, praying in aid both Adam Smith and Edmund Burke. More predictably, and nearer contemporary times, he draws upon Stanley Baldwin, Rab Butler and Iain Macleod. "They were all politicians well able to shift their ideological balance from foot to foot, and their quoted remarks must be seen in this context. This does not distress Kenneth Baker, who argues, and I emphatically agree, that there is no new Conservatism, only a re-statement of old beliefs in modern terms."

Thus the essential value of this anthology is the demon-

stration of an ageless Tory ambivalence about the enthusiastic search for political and social ideals, and a healthy distrust of centralised power. To that end Baker has accumulated literary as well as political witnesses. In *The Old Curiosity Shop* Dickens provides a pertinent comment upon the power of property: "The ties that bind the wealthy and the proud to home may be forged on earth, but those which link the poor man to his humble hearth are of the truest metal and bear the stamp of Heaven." It would take a Macleod to find politicians' words to match these sentiments.

Predictably G. K. Chesterton and Rudyard Kipling are frequently quoted, and a light touch is provided by P. G. Wodehouse with a contribution entitled "I don't understand English titles". The book freely mixes contributions from political and literary authors, who range from the epigrammatic to the flippant. The mixture may not be scholarly but nor is it dull.

Perhaps the final word should rest with Cardinal Newman: "It is almost a definition of a gentleman to say he is one who never inflicts pain... If he engages in controversy of any kind, his disciplined intellect preserves him from the blundering discourtesy of better, perhaps, but less educated minds..." Perhaps Kenneth Baker has unearthed a text that will serve for prime minister's Question Time.

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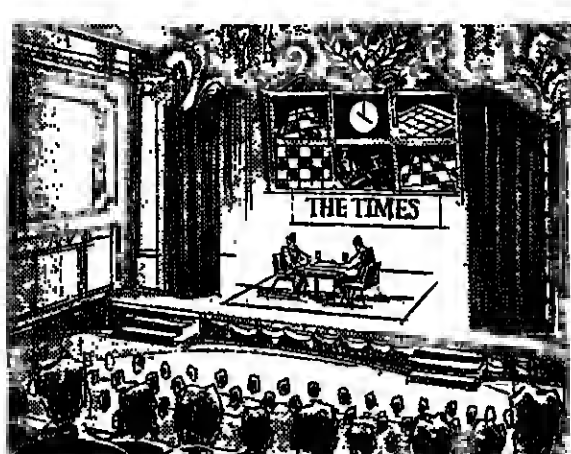
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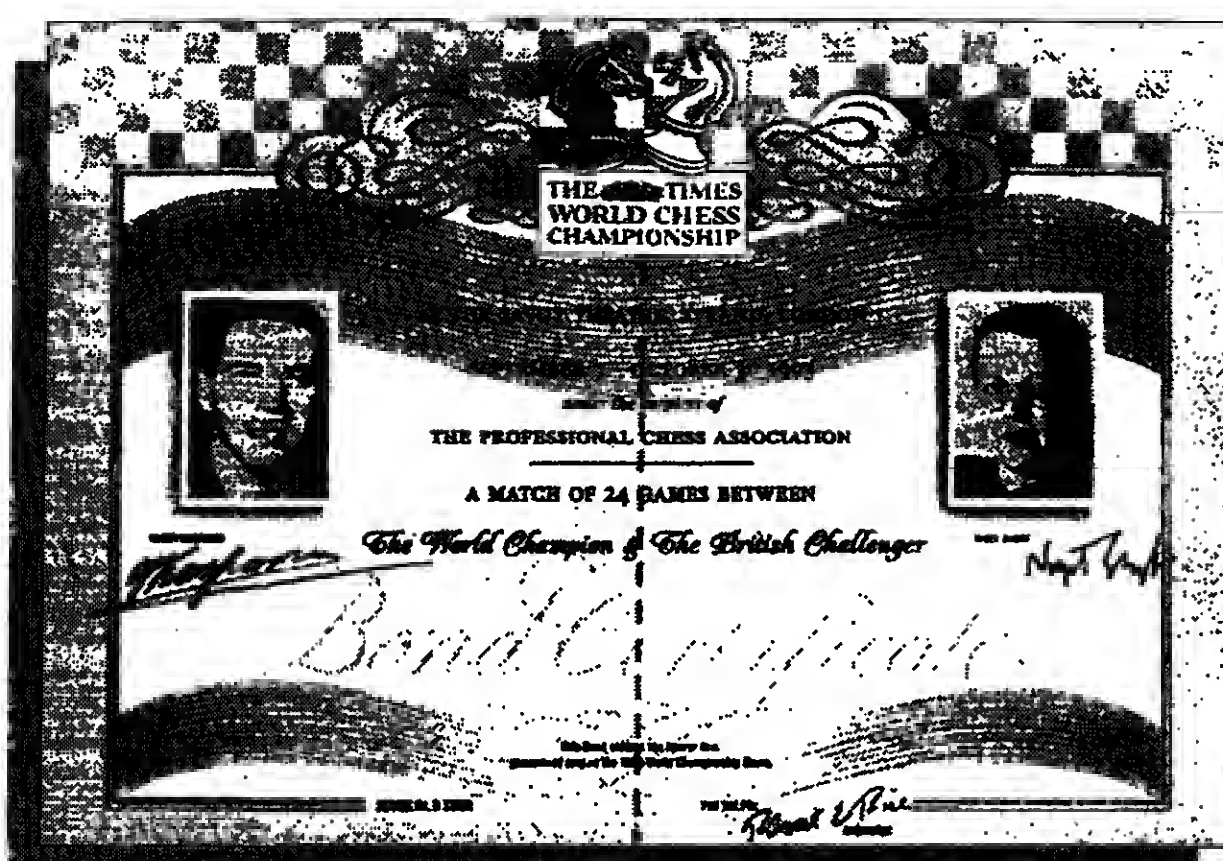
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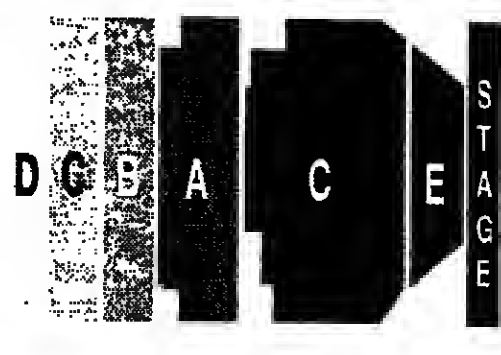
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- E Bonds (£45)** entitle holders to Front Stalls seats Rows AA-F



able in a range of five prices, related to seating areas in the theatre (See Seating Plan):

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#### WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES CALENDAR

All games begin at 3.30pm at the Savoy Theatre. All play finishes at 9.30pm or before if games are decided. Adjourned games will be continued the following day at times and venues to be announced.

Game 1	Tues, September 7	Game 13	Tues, October 5
Game 2	Thurs, September 9	Game 14	Thurs, October 7
Game 3	Sat, September 11	Game 15	Sat, October 9
Game 4	Tues, September 14	Game 16	Tues, October 12
Game 5	Thurs, September 16	Game 17	Thurs, October 14
Game 6	Sat, September 18	Game 18	Sat, October 16
Game 7	Tues, September 21	Game 19	Tues, October 19
Game 8	Thurs, September 23	Game 20	Thurs, October 21
Game 9	Sat, September 25	Game 21	Sat, October 23
Game 10	Tues, September 28	Game 22	Tues, October 26
Game 11	Thurs, September 30	Game 23	Thurs, October 28
Game 12	Sat, October 2	Game 24	Sat, October 30

During play, patrons are free to leave the auditorium and return providing the rule of silence is observed. There are three bar areas, all equipped with video monitors so that patrons can follow the games at all times.

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## Concern at trend in potion taking

By JOHN GOODBODY

A LEADING campaigner against drug abuse in sport yesterday warned of the "sinister development" of competitors, believing that talent and training were not enough for success, increasingly turning to food and vitamin supplements for assistance.

Professor Peter Radford, the chairman of the Sports Council's drug abuse advisory group (DAAG), described this attitude as a "slippery slope" because some competitors do not know where to draw the line and so start using banned substances. Radford, an Olympic 100 metres bronze medal winner, said: "Many top sportsmen believe they cannot succeed without special supplements. Often they do not know how much to take or whether they are pure, or even whether they are safe."

He said that there was doubt about the effectiveness of many supplements and potions, some of which contain small quantities of substances which can be proscribed by the International Olympic Committee.

Although there has been a drop in the annual number of adverse findings in the testing carried out by the Sports Council over the last year, Radford said that competitors might be getting better at avoiding detection.

Radford, a professor at Glasgow University, said he was concerned at the number of people not taking part in competitive sport but were using anabolic steroids.

Lyudmila Narozhnikova, Russia's world champion hurdler, is appealing against a four-year doping ban by claiming that her estranged husband secretly made her take steroids.

# Going strong and ready to tackle Lions

A member of a famous rugby family may fall foul of the citing law. David Hands reports



MUCH of the land between Auckland and the far north of New Zealand lies in folds, wrinkled by the giant hand of nature. A bit like Charles Going, 36, the North Auckland centre who in Whangarei on Saturday plays against the British Isles for the third time in his career.

Going's first appearance against the Lions was in 1977, when he marked Ian McGeechan, now the Lions coach. A member of the remarkable Going family which proliferates in North Auckland rugby and of which Sid Going was the best known, Charles Going is still playing centre. He is, though, fortunate to be still going, as it were, and not gone altogether.

Going has fallen foul of the citing law which has been part of the game here for the last two years. When North Auckland, demoted last season to the second division, beat the newly-promoted Taranaki last week in Whangarei, Going was seen stamping on an opponent, Andy Slater. The incident was televised and a member of the public complained, with the result that the New Zealand Rugby Football Union's judicial body will sit in judgment tomorrow week.

The citing procedure was amended at the International Rugby Football Board's annual meeting in April to allow either side in a match to complain about foul play not spotted by the match officials. That is the procedure the Lions will follow on tour, but they will not accept complaints from spectators.

"In our case the citing can only be by one of the participating organisations involved in the game," Geoff Cooke, the Lions manager, said. "In New Zealand it's much more open. A member of the public can cite, we're not having that. Any complaint has to be lodged in writing within 12 hours of the end of the game."

This does not, of course, prevent any spectator who feels strongly about an incident lobbying his local officials

as soon as a match is over.

In any case, the Lions are anticipating only the start of a successful tour rather than such snares. They have trained well since arriving in their Bay of Islands retreat of Pahiia, although Stuart Barnes, the captain on Saturday, was left feeling somewhat dazed after a head-to-head collision with Rory Underwood.

Their main problem, though, surrounds Martin Bayfield. The Northampton lock, who toured here last year with England B (though he did not play in the four-point win against North Auckland), has a sore hamstring which casts a slight doubt on his availability. Damian Cronin stands by.

North Auckland will be led from lock by their only All Black (though a significant one), Ian Jones, and include on the wing a player who is the subject of an immigration department enquiry. David Manako, a Tongan, came to New Zealand in 1988 in the same school party that included Willie O'Connell. The latter was not allowed to stay and took up residence in Australia, to notable effect. Manako's application for residency is still being considered. Meanwhile he distinguished himself in the All Blacks trials last week.

Although Saturday's match at Okara Park is to be sold out, not all eyes will be on the Lions: Auckland play in the final of the Super Ten competition against Transvaal in Johannesburg, having omitted from the team their captain, Zinzan Brooke. The New Zealand No 8 has just returned from playing for Casale in Italy, and the provincial selectors have kept faith with the back row of Carter, Jackson and Jones which has played so well this season.

Tim Rodber, the England back-row forward, has suffered a hamstring injury in Canada. The tour management is waiting until today before deciding whether to send for a replacement.



Hurdling half: Barnes goes through his paces as the British Isles squad train in New Zealand yesterday

## Britain seek to extend trophy lead

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE British show jumping team, led by John Whitaker on Everest Milton, will attempt to extend their lead in the Nations Trophy when they compete in the British Nations Cup at Hickstead this weekend. The meeting, sponsored by Homepoint, begins today and ends on Sunday with the £36,000 British Grand Prix. Whitaker will be giving the 16-year-old Milton his first outing since finishing runner-up in the Volvo World Cup in Sweden last month. He will

ride him today in preparation for Saturday's Nations Cup.

Although the grand prix takes place the following day, Whitaker intends jumping Milton in both. "It's not ideal having the two big classes on successive days — it would be nice if Milton only had to jump one round on Saturday," he said.

That would depend on the other three members of the team having clear rounds, with the best three scores out of four counting. Whitaker, his younger brother, Michael, with Everest Midnight Mad-

ness, and Nick Skelton with Limited Edition, will form the nucleus of the team.

The fourth place will go to either David Broome, whose clear round last year on Anct Lannegan helped Britain to win the cup, or Warren Clarke, with Benjamin, who made their senior team debut in Rome last month.

Ronnie Massella, the chef d'equipe, will choose the team on Friday evening. "You've got to go with your tried and trusted to Hickstead," he said yesterday. "You can't blood two in a team together."

Clarke, 23, the former Young Riders European team gold medal-winner, said: "The pressure doesn't worry me. I'd just want to be sure to go well."

Clarke's performance in Rome helped the team to finish in second place behind Germany. The same weekend Britain's "second eleven" had a surprise win in the Hungary Nations Cup, giving Britain a four-point lead over Germany in the Nations Cup series. "The other teams competing this weekend are Germany, France, Belgium, Ireland and Holland."

## British Steel angles to win

By BARRY PICKTHALL

THERE was almost nothing to separate Richard Merrett's Commercial Union from Group 4 Securitas yesterday as the ten yachts in British Steel Challenge fleet stormed up the Portuguese coast towards Cape Finisterre on the final stage of the round-the-world race.

The boat everyone is watching, however, is British Steel II, 170 miles west of the leaders and furthest north. Sailing at a faster angle to the wind than many of their rivals, Richard Tudor and his crew were 51 miles ahead of Commercial Union in terms of northing and almost certainly in a better position strategically than the fifth place given to them by the computer tracking system, which takes no account of the wind. At 1400 GMT yesterday, 34 miles was all that divided the first five, and any one of these could be the first into the Solent.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 1400 GMT yesterday, with miles to Southport): 1. Commercial Union (R Merrett), 772.2; 2. Group 4 Securitas (M Giddings), 772.5; 3. Nucleus (A Giddings), 783.4; 4. Rhone-Poulenc (P Phelippeau), 800.5; 5. British Steel II (R Tudor), 807.7; 6. Oceanic 4 (J Goss), 807.7; 7. Holman Lager (P Goss), 807.8; 8. Prize of Tassellia (J Goss), 808.3; 9. Invermay (P Goss), 811.10; 10. Heath (P Goss), 811.10.

COMPLETED BY BRITISH YACHTING: 1. Matthew Humphries was named yesterday to lead Britain's combined disabled youth challenge Dolphin 60 in this year's Whitbread Round the World Race. The team, made up of six disabled and five youth sailors, has also attracted a further £100,000 from the Foundation for Sports and the Arts to compete in this summer's New York-London and Fastnet races as a prelude to the Whitbread event, which starts from Southampton in September.

## SPORTS LETTERS

### IOC must not rush to award Games to China

From Mr Ross V. Turnbull

Sir, David Miller (May 6) puts forward in part Peking's case to hold the 2000 Olympic Games. They do have a case, but the case has to stand up.

I have the gravest concerns about the prematurity of awarding the Games to a China that has not changed its repressive policies.

If the International Rugby Football Board, on which I served from 1984 to 1989, had invited South Africa to participate in the 1987 World Cup, there would have been demonstrations outside our boardroom in London. The arguments against South Africa in relation to human rights were simply too strong and passionate for us even to consider such an invitation.

The world's exclusion of South Africa from international sport was one of the most important factors in instigating genuine change in that country. Furthermore, by bringing South Africa back into the fold only after genuine change, a powerful incentive has been created for the country to maintain that course.

The concept of the modern world conducting its premier sporting event in a ruthless, totalitarian state is unimagin-

able and unacceptable. Two of the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter state:

"Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced way the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example and the respect for universal fundamental ethical principles."

"The goal of Olympism is to place everywhere sport at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view to encouraging the establishment of a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity."

It is difficult to see how rewarding Peking with the 2000 Games could be consistent with these principles. Until China can display to the Olympic family such qualities as freedom, tolerance, harmony, cultural diversity, friendship and solidarity, its behaviour should not be rewarded. Nor will such reward give any basis or incentive to adopt these qualities.

By awarding the Games to

China, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) would lose the opportunity of real influence in promoting human rights in China and influencing China's international behaviour such as in Tibet and Hong Kong. By retaining the prospect of a future award of the Games to China the IOC and its leadership will be seen to have acted in a statesmanlike manner and with the prospect of an unparalleled opportunity to exercise a beneficial interest in the world arena.

The IOC, when it meets in Monte Carlo on September 23, will be under the world microscope as never before. Its leaders have a tremendous responsibility to demonstrate to the world that sport is not the province of governments, multinational corporations or of giant world media organisations; that sporting delegates cannot be bought by favours or dictated to by their governments; and that they are there for one reason, and one reason only, for the benefit of sport and the athletes.

Yours faithfully,  
ROSS V. TURNBULL,  
25-27 John Street,  
Woolahra, NSW 2025,  
Australia.

### Perks without responsibility

From Mr David Buchanan

Sir, In supporting the letter from Dudley Wood concerning payment of rugby union players (May 13), I would ask the practitioners and the participants in the twilight world of "shamateurism" what they actually want. Further, are they prepared to pay the price? Their argument that professional attitudes within the game deserve financial reward leads only in one direction: full professionalism.

Is this financially practical? One only needs to examine the annual reports and accounts of professional football or rugby league clubs to realise that the majority are close to bankruptcy. They are kept afloat by the benefactors and political prudence of their bankers.

Do players want to create a sport which could give them a paid career of perhaps ten years at the most? Would they then be confident of starting out on a new career path at the age of thirty-something?

It is evident that what the "shamateurs" want is the status quo legitimised. They demand the benefits of the professional game but none of its responsibility. They want the blind eye continually to be turned to the tax-free brown envelope, the borrowed swag car, the rent-free accommodation and the subsidised mortgage.

However, what are they prepared to give in return that thousands of others give for nothing? They give their names and their ability. Their names are theirs by right; their ability in part is natural but in the main has been developed by others who have given their services free.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BUCHANAN,  
12 Rosehill Road, SW18.

### Second defence

From Mr P. Rayner

Sir, In the season just ended Arsenal scored fewer goals in the Premier League than any other club. They also conceded fewer goals than any other club bar one.

Should we deduce that their forwards were too busy helping out the defence to score goals?

Yours faithfully,  
PETER RAYNER,  
Cedars,  
Sandy Lane,  
Kingswood, Surrey.

### Clash of codes

From Mr W. A. Anderson

Sir, The criticism expressed in Mr Carrat-Pearce's letter (May 13) on the BBC's lack of live Pilkington Cup final coverage is ill-directed.

For nearly a century, the Rugby League Cup final (and the Northern Union final which preceded it) has been held on the first Saturday in May, and for over 40 years double the life of the Rugby Football Union's club competition — the BBC has had a contract for live coverage of the early rounds and the final.

This information is certainly available to those who organise the Pilkington Cup, a competition whose existence in common with so many other aspects of rugby union today, follows the example set by the professional code.

The BBC affords rugby league only one "showpiece" afternoon in the calendar, in comparison to the many devoted (and justifiably so) to rugby union.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM A. ANDERSON,  
5 Station Road,  
Parbold, Lancashire.

From Mr M. O'Hare

Sir, Surely the reasons the BBC chose to screen the Silk Cut Challenge Cup rather than the Pilkington Cup are that rugby league is Britain's second biggest spectator sport after football; that it would attract more viewers; and that Wigan and Widnes receive attendances far in excess of those achieved by Harlequins and Leicester.

Wembley, just like Twickenham, had a capacity crowd that day, save for the expensive seats in the Olympic Gallery.

If Mr Carrat-Pearce is unsure of the BBC's commitment towards rugby union, he need look no further than the weekly Rugby Special, broadcast throughout the season. Rugby league would love to have such a television slot.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL O'HARE,  
Jacaranda Cottage,  
49 Roxborough Park,  
Harrow on the Hill,  
Middlesex.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046. They should include a daytime telephone number.

### Tottenham threat

From Mr Michael S. Petrook

Sir, As a lifelong supporter of Tottenham Hotspur,

I am disgusted by the upheaval at Tottenham Hotspur. Terry Venables rescued Spurs from almost certain liquidation. He has been responsible for a revival of fortunes both on and off the field.

Alan Sugar has, of course, been a major asset to the club, and mutually responsible for its continued existence, but financial gain depends on footballing success. Without the footballing genius of Venables, what can Sugar do for the club?

With his experience in business, Sugar should appreciate that the decision to dismiss Venables is a liability to the future success and existence of one of Britain's most celebrated footballing institutions.

For the sake of the supporters, and the club, he should reinstate Venables, notwithstanding the decision of the High Court.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL S. PETROOK,  
26 Somerset Road,  
Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

### LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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REQUIRED FROM SEPTEMBER 1993. The Headmistress of Roedean School is seeking a dynamic, capable Secretary/PA with excellent organisational and secretarial skills, including word-processing. Applicants must be confident, articulate, have a good sense of humour and be able to work on their own initiative in a busy, friendly and informal environment. This is a city-centred post. Age: 28+. Salary according to experience. Please apply in writing with full CV and 3 recent, addressed and stamped photographs of 2 inches to The Headmistress, Roedean School, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 3ND.

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# Glue fumes pose heady problems for table tennis

THE pitfalls of the professional sporting world tend to be conventional: wine and the opposite sex leading the field. Drug-enhancement arrived in the 1980s. Table tennis, one of the world's top six participant sports, has something different: unintended glue-addiction.

By an odd twist, proposed restrictions on aromatic glues may inadvertently lead to a slower, and therefore more commercially viable, spectator sport. The world championships are taking place here, the attacking Swedes having won an enthralling men's team title by defeating the subtly defensive Chinese against a background of a two-pronged controversy. The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) is attempting to remove the health risk posed by aromatic glues, used to fix sponge rubber to bats; a technical phenomenon that helps to make table tennis exceptionally fast — a 200kph ball spinning at 10,000rpm — and therefore almost unwatchable... other than by table tennis players.

Ichiro Ogimura, of Japan, is one of the few presidents of Olympic sport who was a former international champion. In his opening address, to yesterday's ITTF biennial general meeting, Ogimura stated: "We are one of those invisible sports."

For six years, he has vigorously been campaigning to do something about it. In the ranking list of televised time of sports at the Olympic Games in Barcelona last summer, table tennis, in spite of its 100 million-plus participant po-



David Miller reports from  
Gothenburg on the issue  
of fast but toxic bat adhesives

tential audience, was placed by the host broadcasters in the lowest category — 25th — between shooting and archery, equally "invisible" to spectators. The financial limitation of this status is serious. At the same time, table tennis suddenly finds itself condemned by doctors and chemists on the health risk, to the skin and by inhalation, from the rubber-fixing glues. While still wet, the glues behind the rubber give added pace and spin. Therefore, players were regluing bats twice a day or more.

Jan-Ove Waldner, the Swedish Olympic champion, said yesterday: "If I was banned from using glues in this tournament, I wouldn't have a chance." This is not to suggest Waldner is a glue-sniffer, merely that the issue embraces conflicting elements of success and health.

"If it's dangerous, for sure I agree [with the ban]," Waldner said. "But I would like to look at all aspects. To prohibit all the glues would make the game less exciting."

On this, the Olympic champion may be wrong: though he knows nothing else, having been introduced at 16 to aromatic glues, so fast in their effect that for some years he did not use them on the backhand side.

Before the world championships, the ITTF banned certain glues on their perceived health risk. It introduced a \$50,000 "bat breathalyzer" that would determine prohibited glues, but has stopped short of withdrawing bats or competitors, merely giving "advice".

The English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) went further, banning all fast liquid glues, never mind the handicap to its team. Since only fast glues are relevant, the health risk would be solved coincidentally. "We had to protect the players," Johnny Leach, the ETTA president, said yesterday.

The ETTA was swiftly convinced when Keith Powell, a Scottish doctor, arrived at the relevant meeting wearing a visor and plastic gauntlets as evidence of the realistic protection players needed.

Yesterday's ITTF meeting approved its council's ban as from September of all liquid glues, to be replaced by pressure-sensitive adhesive sheets (PSAS). The executive committee is granted authority to delay the ban if this is thought advisable.

The unofficial players' association, the Club of Table Tennis Professionals (CTTP), has protested at the swiftness of the decisions, but is weakened by its — so far — lack of constitutional status with ITTF and the absence of Chinese or women members.

The meeting approved a freeze for two years on all equipment changes. Leading equipment manufacturers are hedging their bets, confronted by possible commercial loss but conscious that resistance to safety would damage their image.

Ogimura, who has led the revolutionary use of yellow-orange balls on dark blue tables and wine floor covers to improve visibility, is aware that the glue issue can play into his hands by improving the spectator image — slowing the game, against the best Western players' wishes, and increasing the number of rallies.

Table tennis has the same problem as grasscourt tennis: tediously repetitive three-stroke points. It is Ogimura's intention to try to raise the average per point from under four strokes to something approaching seven. The innocent glue-sniffers may have helped him.

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Down to work: David Manganham, of England, lines up a shot during the world croquet championships at Sonoma-Cutter Vineyards in Windsor, California

## Hill chases father's tracks

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN MONACO

THE rain that offers Ayrton Senna the best chance of eclipsing the late Graham Hill's record of five Monaco grand prix wins fell heavily here yesterday sending the glitterati scurrying for cover.

Senna has won here for the past four years with McLaren, adding to his 1987 victory for Lotus, and is the acknowledged master of the tight, twisting street circuit that soys his way through the Principality.

His brilliance on the stage that has become Formula One's blue ribbon event may even render the help of the

elements unnecessary. But if Senna is to better Hill's record, which has stood from 1969, he will have to break the resistance of the determined son of a famous father.

The rain may ease by the time of Sunday's race, but the family pride of Damon Hill will not have dulled. The power advantage enjoyed by his Williams-Renault will be at a season's low, but he promised yesterday he would not allow his father's achievement to be overtaken by Senna or equalled by teammate Alain Prost without a fight.

"There is the family reput-

ation to protect," Hill said. "Alain and Senna are in a position to claim my dad's glory and I know that I have got a big job to do to stop that happening."

"Monte Carlo is special enough in the grand prix calendar anyway, but because of what dad did here, it is extra special for me. He was synonymous with the race and now there is a chance I could do well here too."

But the experience of the Frenchman and Senna, who between them have won here for the past nine years, will be hard to overcome.

### SPORT IN BRIEF

## Player fined £1,000 for Wembley foul

BOBBY Goulding, of Widnes, was yesterday fined £1,000 — half of it suspended for a year — by the Rugby Football League board for misconduct during the Challenge Cup final at Wembley earlier this month. He was also warned as to his future behaviour after his high tackle on Jason Robinson, of Wigan, which sparked off a brawl during the match. He escaped at the time with a lecture from the referee, but was later ordered to appear before the board of directors in Leeds after a video recording was reviewed.

Wigan and Leeds, who attract large crowds, have been awarded the plum Sunday club games against the touring New Zealanders in the autumn. Wigan, the champions, play them on October 10, and Leeds do so a fortnight later. Both clubs will also host a Great Britain-New Zealand match.

UNDER-21: Oct 20: v Wigan (Widnes); Oct 27: v Wigan (Leeds); Oct 28: v Wigan (Leeds); Oct 29: v Wigan (Leeds); Oct 30: v Wigan (Leeds); Oct 31: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 1: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 2: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 3: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 4: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 5: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 6: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 7: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 8: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 9: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 10: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 11: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 12: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 13: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 14: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 15: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 16: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 17: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 18: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 19: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 20: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 21: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 22: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 23: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 24: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 25: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 26: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 27: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 28: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 29: v Wigan (Leeds); Nov 30: v Wigan (Leeds); Dec 1: v Wigan (Leeds); Dec 2: v Wigan (Leeds); Dec 3: v Wigan (Leeds); Dec 4: v Wigan (Leeds); Dec 5: v Wigan (Leeds); 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Francis and Graham unwilling to predict more entertaining match after dull first encounter

# Replay offers finalists chance of redemption

Rob Hughes on the need for the teams at Wembley to produce a Cup Final worthy of the occasion



COULD this be redemption day? After the dull FA Cup final in memory, Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday must dispense with tired excuses if they are to spare themselves, and spare us, the spurious ending of the Cup finishing on a penalty shoot-out.

It has never come to this. It has the stark connotation of Russian roulette. But if they do once more murder the game, some of us might favour a bullet for the pretenders be-smirching a sporting tradition.

However, we should go to Wembley in the spirit of an act of faith. We should be optimistic, should believe that somehow the game will rejuvenate itself.

George Graham had spelt out his curmudgeonly intent before reaching Wembley. Graham, the second most successful Arsenal manager in history, said: "In modern football you can't afford to have more players who are not prepared to work."

After Saturday, Arsenal and Wednesday should be told in equal measure that there is a limit to how much the audience will pay to watch workers not prepared to show talent, not willing to improvise or to suggest that beneath the industry beats the heart of a game.

Do we ask too much? These, after all, are the 1990s, when sport is liberally sugared with mercenaries. Graham considered us foolish even to expect attractive football. How many Cup Finals since the war, he asked, had been attractive? He thought maybe six, and he cautioned: "I'm hoping that the replay will be more entertaining, but I wouldn't bank on it." And, adding that Arsenal's main concern was to win, he predicted a match just as tight as Saturday's.

Trevor Francis did, at least, sound more encouraging, but, like Graham, he felt the press had been too condemning of the first final. "Everything in this country is black or white,"

Francis said, and, heavy with irony, he added: "Chris Waddle can't play an average game. He is absolutely magnificent or absolutely useless."

Nobody suggested either extreme last Saturday, but the Wednesday manager felt that his team had tried to make the game flow and Arsenal's resolution made them difficult to play against. "If you get a team managed by Ron Atkinson, Brian Clough or Alex Ferguson against us, you might get a classic," Francis said. "But Arsenal do it their way, and you can't blame George Graham because it's very effective and very successful."

Should Arsenal confirm today that Ray Parlour is dropped, and Alan Smith is included, Graham might at least alter the shape of Arsenal's game, using a 3-5-2 formation, allowing the full backs, Lee Dixon and Nigel Winterburn, to generate pace down the flanks.

The talk on Saturday was all about inhuman toil, and Roland Nilsson calmly announced he would play two games in two days. Perhaps because he is foreign, possibly because he engages the brain

before charging upfield, Nilsson seemed less fatigued than most at the final whistle on Saturday. He took the breath away by suggesting he could captain Sweden in the World Cup against Austria yesterday and play at right back in the Cup replay today.

But Francis, at 39 a decade older than Nilsson but reluctant to hand in his own player's licence, backed the player. He agreed to pay £8,000 for an executive jet to return Nilsson from Gothenburg to Wembley.

Does this suggest that fatigue is partly in the mind? Francis, his assistant, Richie Barker, and Nilsson will leave until the final hour the decision that ultimately becomes one of trust. Francis must trust that desire will not cloud Nilsson's judgment about his stamina.

But it is no different, in its way, to the kind of judgments both managers make on the frailty of key players. Francis must take advice and decide whether Peter Shirliff (calf strain) or Viv Anderson (knee ligament) are ready for 90, possibly 120, minutes. Equally, Graham must gamble that

the groin injury that persistently troubles Tony Adams, and Ian Wright's broken toe, which will again need a pain-killing injection, can withstand this replay.

These are wear-and-tear injuries to be expected of clubs playing their 63rd and 59th games in a ten-month season. But before we feel too sympathetic, too ready to excuse these worn athletes, think of the photographs contained in the original FA Cup programme.

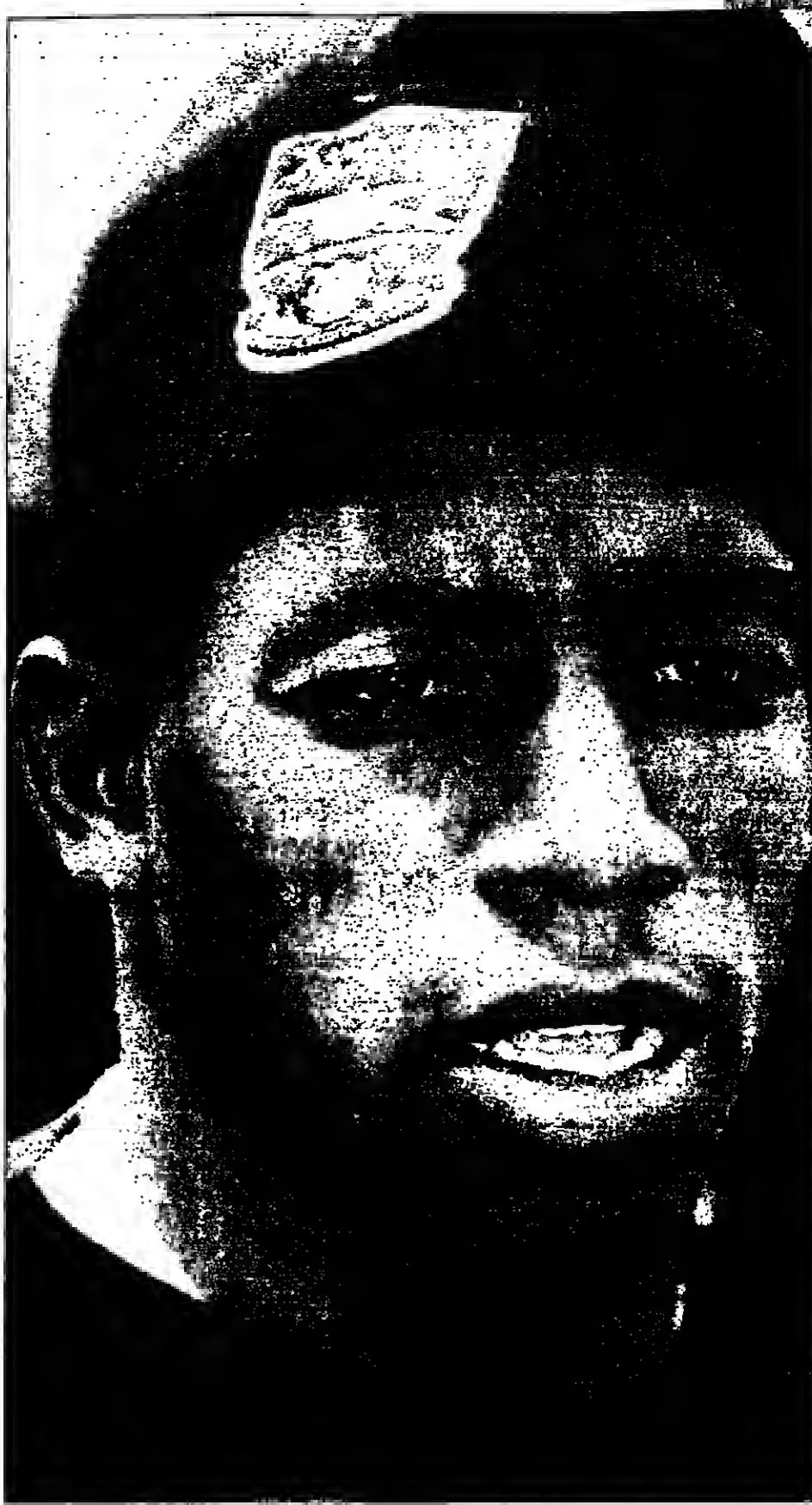
One featured Ray Kennedy, the former Arsenal forward who has Parkinson's Disease. Another was of Michael Watson, an Arsenal supporter through and through, who is never likely to recover fully from the brain-damaging blows of his more fearful boxing trade.

They, sportsmen past, put a perspective on the willingness or otherwise of tonight's combatants to open their minds and perform for us. The game badly needs one camp or the other to release Waddle or Merson, to flourish on the wings, to give us moments of wizardry that would make this an acceptable, even exciting, aftermath to boredom.

But I hope that David O'Leary comes off the substitutes' bench to make his twelfth and final Wembley appearance in Arsenal colours. Already enriched by £22,117 supporters prepared to turn out and pay £150,000 for his testimonial on Monday, O'Leary leaves Arsenal after Hat Trick, possibly for West Ham United.

But, having joined Arsenal as a schoolboy 20 years ago, leaving them as a father of two, his legacy is 721 performances, and all manner of records, none of them mercenary.

There are still one or two men prepared to treat this business as a game, men to whom the rewards of loyalty have graced football and deserve at least a walk-on part tonight.



Hat trick: Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, relaxes after training yesterday

## Lineker turns provider in easy victory

GARY Lineker helped Grampus Eight, of Nagoya, to their first victory in the new Japanese professional J League yesterday. Grampus beat Urawa Reds 3-0 away, with the former England striker playing a part in two goals.

Yasuyuki Moriyama, Lineker's forward partner, scored twice with the mid-field player, Taro Goto, adding a third. "I want to score, but the result for the team is most important," Lineker said. "Moriyama played very well."

Grampus opened the scoring after 30 minutes when Lineker put the Argentinian, Marcelo Trivisono, under pressure and his misplaced header was hit home from the edge of the penalty area by Moriyama. In the 48th minute, Lineker ran on to a through pass and set up Moriyama to slide home the second goal.

Kashima beat AS Fluegel, of Yokohama, 3-2 despite losing the Brazilian, Zico, in the eighteenth minute with a torn muscle in his right leg. Pierre Littbarski, the former German international, scored his first goal for Ichihara JEF United in their 2-1 win over Kawasaki Verdy.

Shizumu S-Pulse beat Hiroshima San Frece 1-0, while Marinos, of Yokohama, overcame Osaka Gamba 1-0, the sudden-death winning goal coming in the 112th minute from David Carlos Visconti.

Michel Preud'homme, the Mechelen goalkeeper, said yesterday he had turned down a lucrative offer to play for a Japanese club in the new league and would be staying with the Belgian side. "I preferred to stay in Belgium... to play in the national team," he said.

Preud'homme, 34, said he had promised not to name the Japanese club that had made the offer. Belgium are on the way to their fourth consecutive World Cup finals after winning six out of seven qualifying matches.

Roy Wilkins ended speculation about a possible manager's job yesterday when he signed a one-year contract to carry on playing for Queens Park Rangers.

Wilkins, the Rangers captain, had been linked with a possible return to Chelsea as Dave Webb's successor and a switch to Crystal Palace, where Steve Coppell's future as manager is uncertain after his team was relegated.

But Wilkins, the former England midfielder player, made it clear that he had no plans to hang up his boots, and said: "I hope this ends all the rumours."

Wilkins broke a leg earlier this year, but recovered to play a key role as Rangers finished as London's leading club in the inaugural season of the FA Premier League.

"Playing football is still my top priority; moving into management is very much for the future," Wilkins insisted.

At 36 he still prides himself on his fitness and said: "So long as I'm enjoying my football, I'll carry on playing."

Gerry Francis, the Rangers manager, is still having talks with the chairman, Richard Thompson, about an extension to his contract that would keep him at Loftus Road for a further 12 months.

## Wright will defy pain to play

By Keith Pike

IAN Wright will again defy the pain caused by a recently broken toe to lead Arsenal's attack against Sheffield Wednesday in the FA Cup final replay at Wembley tonight.

Wright, who had a painkilling injection for the first time on Saturday, when he was substituted, will also have one tonight and again wear protective padding on his foot. He took part in a light training session yesterday and suffered no ill effects from the injury.

With Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain, also fit to play, despite a nagging groin strain, George Graham, the manager, has fewer selection problems than his opposite number, Trevor Francis, but will not name his team until shortly before kick-off.

"I have no more tricks up my sleeve," Graham said, although speculation at Arsenal's training ground in Hertfordshire yesterday was that Parlour's place was in jeopardy and that Smith would partner Wright, with Campbell dropping back to midfield. Graham also refused to comment on Paul Davis's non-participation at the club's media open day.

But if Graham was able to offer his own supporters encouragement — "We know we can play a lot better than we did on Saturday and we intend to," he said — he did not hold out so much hope for

the non-committed spectator. Criticism of the first match had surprised him "not because it was a disappointing game but because most Cup Finals are like that".

He included the second of the two successive finals he played in for Arsenal, against the Leeds United of Bremner, Lorimer and Giles in 1972. "There were world-class players all over the pitch but that was a worse game than Saturday," he said.

Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday are "two very evenly matched teams who tend to cancel each other out. It has happened many times in finals before and it will not affect my approach for the replay."

"We all want good games and entertaining football, the managers, players and supporters, but I also want Arsenal to win. In five years' time the losers will be forgotten."

"I will again tell my players to go out and express themselves but I have a feeling it will once more be a very tight game."

Viv Anderson, the Sheffield Wednesday captain, has agreed a new one-year contract with the club. Wednesday have also offered new contracts to Phil King, John Harkes, Danny Wilson, David Johnson, Michael Williams and Leroy Chambers.

## Scotland struggle to assert superiority over minnows

FROM RODDY FOESYTH IN TALLINN

SCOTLAND achieved only their second victory this season in the Kadrioru stadium here last night when goals from Gallacher, Collins and Booth were sufficient to outdistance an Estonia side which is still finding its way at international level.

Nevertheless, it took Andy Roxburgh's reshaped team almost an hour to play with real authority. Scotland may have supposed that the antidote to their 5-0 humiliation by Portugal in Lisbon last month was to be an easy passage against a team with only a point to their credit in this World Cup qualifying campaign, but they passed up an early opportunity to calm their own nerves.

Irvine delivered a long clearance upfield in the opening seconds and his opposite number, Kaljend, misread the ball. In attempting to pass back to his goalkeeper he permitted Robertson to cut inside him, but rather than carry the ball forward, the Heart of Midlothian player shot and saw his drive easily grasped by Poom.

Thereafter, Scotland concentrated on the aerial route to goal, as when Irvine met a free kick from Bowman but

looped his header over the crossbar. While Estonia were capable of fragmentary aggression, Scotland enjoyed the superior share of possession but lacked the guile to penetrate the crowded Estonian penalty area.

Irvine got in a second header, but a Collins corner kick, but Poom flicked the ball away one-handed. Hendry's header from another Collins corner was also unproductive.

When Collins was present inside the area he was unfortunate to see his chip fall narrowly wide of the post. Next a meandering dribble by the Celtic midfielder player released Boyd for a cross to McCall, whose header went straight at the goalkeeper.

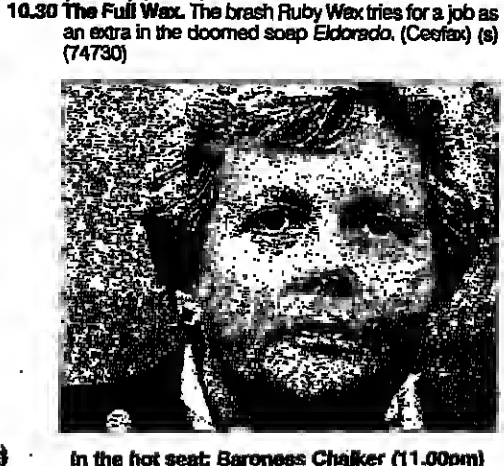
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	7	5	2	0	18	4	12
Italy	7	4	2	1	15	6	10
Portugal	5	2	2	1	8	4	6
Scotland	5	2	2	2	7	8	6
Malta	6	1	1	6	3	17	3
Estonia	5	0	1	4	0	12	1



**BBC1**

6.00 Business Breakfast (57285)  
 7.00 Breakfast News (5820448)  
 9.05 Verdict. This week the studio jury have to decide whether a woman who kills her husband after years of abuse is guilty of murder or manslaughter (s) (4471885) 9.55 King of the Road. Ross King and Anna Walker visit Jersey (2193198)  
 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5255552) 10.05 Playdays (r) (s) (4020522)  
 10.30 Good Morning. With Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine (s) (6210685)  
 12.05 Pebble Mill. Judi Splett hosts a special tribute to the singer Val Doonican (s) (2912440) Northern Ireland: 12.00 News and Election 93  
 12.45 Good Morning. With Anne and Nick. A round-up of the morning's topics (2182139) 12.55 Regional News and weather (1812049)  
 1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (91556) 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (7022848)  
 1.50 Film: Assault on a Queen (1986) starring Frank Sinatra, Vera Lee and Tony Franciosa. Adventure yarn about a plot to raise a sinking U-boat and use it in an attempt to hijack the bullion-carrying Queen Mary. Directed by Jack Donaghy. (Ceefax) (2263502). Northern Ireland: Election 93 2.00 Caruso 2.10 Hawaii Five-O 3.00-3.30 Election 93  
 3.35 Duffy Duck Double Bill. Cartoons (597407) 3.50 Pingu (r) (473157) 3.55 Chuzzlewit (r) (s) (703092) 4.15 Walt on Earth. Episode two (r) (3223858) 4.30 Tricks 'n' Tracks. Magic and music series. (Ceefax) (s) (2084575)  
 4.55 Newsround (5768310) 5.05 Blue Peter. (Ceefax) (s) (4689339)  
 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (178049). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster (r) (204572)  
 6.00 5p O'Clock News with Anne Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (827)  
 6.30 Regional News Magazine (443758). Northern Ireland: Neighbours  
 6.50 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (893310)  
 7.20 FA Cup Final Replay. Live coverage of the replay of Saturday's unlikely clash between Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday (5884814)  
 NB: If the match goes to extra time the following programme times are subject to change  
 9.30 News with Marylin Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (41371)  
 10.00 Sylvan Waters. Continuing the real-life soap series following the everyday lives of an unusual household living in an affluent suburb of Sydney. (Ceefax) (83310)  
 10.30 The Full Wax. The brash Ruby Wax tries for a job as an extra in the doomed soap Eldorado. (Ceefax) (s) (74730)

11.00 Question Time chaired by Peter Seaton. The panel is Baroness Chalker, minister for overseas development, Patricia Hewitt, deputy director of the Institute for Public Policy Research, Alan Eastwood, chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales, and the Rt Rev Ray Williamson, Bishop of Southwark (10943)  
 12.00 Spenser For Hire. Adventures of a Boston-based private detective. Starring Robert Iler (569662)  
 12.45am Weather (3447005). Ends at 12.50  
 2.15-2.45 BBC Select. Executive Business. Club (50518) 3.00-3.30 RCN Nursing Update (27841)



In the hot seat: Baroness Chalker (11.00pm)

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**BBC2**

6.45 Open University  
 8.00 Breakfast News (5811265) 8.15 Westminster. A round-up of business from both Houses (2628468)  
 9.00 Daytime on Two: The Biology Collection (7973846)  
 9.20 Landmarks: Special Reports (1401020) 9.45 You and Me (207848) 10.00 La Merle at the secrets (8200388) 10.15 Over the Moon (5155420)  
 10.30 Ghostwriter (r) (71643) 11.00 Q and A (s) (1741020) 11.10 Landmarks (s) (3945399) 11.30 Moveable Feasts (147643) 11.45 History File (s) (4780778) 12.05 Geography: Casebook (2521612)  
 12.25 Music: The (s) (5025055) 12.50 Winning (s) (1613198) 1.20 Noddy (s) (7705507) 1.30 Funniest (s) (8520800) 1.35 King Greenfingers (s) (8520372) 1.40 Music Time (s) (7023310)  
 2.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by You and Me (1202748) 2.15 Aristotele Omasia. A profile of the late Greek shipping tycoon (2025372)  
 3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (3636556) 3.05 Westminster Live (8234448) 3.50 News (Ceefax) (58391)  
 4.00 International Showjumping from Hickstead (s) (58391)  
 5.30 The Great Car Robbery. How the police in Manchester are cracking down on the theft of cars, estimated at a 1,000 a week. (First shown on BBC North) (558)  
 6.00 Film: Savage Islands (1983) starring Tommy Lee Jones and Jenny Seagrove. Swashbuckling yarn set in the South Pacific during the 19th century. Directed by Ferdinand Falder. (Ceefax) (s) (88515)  
 7.30 Business Matters: Many Happy Returns? (Ceefax) See Choice (933)  
 8.00 Tales From the Map Room. The series on maps through history continues with a look at how the history of cities can be traced by contemporary maps. (Ceefax) (s) (5204)  
 8.30 Top Gear. Includes a test of the latest in commuting vehicles, the electrically-powered Zike two-wheeler (s) (4339)



Devil woman: Jennifer Saunders (9.00pm)

9.00 The Comic Strip Presents: Demoniella. A spoof morality tale about a failed music producer who sells his soul for financial success. With Jennifer Saunders and Robbie Coltrane. (Ceefax) (7843)  
 9.30 Under the Skin: The Tenth Dancer. (Ceefax) See Choice (933)  
 10.20 10 x 10: The Room. Comedy about a small boy's escape from the conventions of family life (911001)  
 10.30 Newsnight presented by Jeremy Paxman (898927)  
 11.15 The Late Show: from Jeremy's Mayfest (s) (91285) 11.55 Weather (53372)  
 12.00 Jumpers. A preview of the weekend's Open University programmes (534745)  
 12.05am Open Advice: Something For Everyone. A look at the range of Open University courses that are available (866808). Ends at 12.30

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Paranoid game show host: Rik Mayall (ITV, 9.00pm)

**ITV 9.00pm**

**Rik Mayall Presents: Micky Love**  
 The first of three vehicles for the comic talents of Rik Mayall is an erratic farce about an aging and paranoid game show host who thinks he is about to be put out to grass. There follows a determined attempt to save his career and do the dirty on his younger, more with-it rival. The joke is that Rik's Micky is not being sacked at all. Peter Morgan's secret is a lively portrait of media in-fighting and Mayall enjoys himself giving the relentless play style of the television anchorman. Viewers can enjoy spotting a range of celebrities in bit parts, including, unless my eyes deceive me, Eddie the Eagle. The great puzzle is the deeply-shadowed lighting, which seems more appropriate to some moody thriller than this piece of froth.

**True Stories: Death of a Wagon Train**  
 Channel 4, 9.35pm

In 1846 two American families formed a wagon train in Springfield, Illinois, and set off on the 2,500-mile trek west to California. It was not the rousing, heroic story later to be made by Hollywood. A short cut proved to be nothing of the sort. Indians attacked and killed the oxen. Some of the travellers died along the way. The aim was to cross the Sierra Nevada mountains before the snows came. Too late by a day, they were forced to dig in for the winter. As the food ran out, eating human flesh became the only way to survive. A film by Ric Burns, who made the BBC2 series on the American Civil War, reconstructs this terrible episode from photographs, paintings and the first-hand accounts of the pioneers.

**Business Matters: Many Happy Returns?**  
 BBC2, 7.30pm

A new series of the business programme opens with a story for our times about the rise and fall of The Birthday Company. It seemed a good idea in the booming 1980s, a one-stop shop for birthday presents, cards and wrapping paper. It seemed an even better idea when landlords trying to fill up the huge new shopping malls were willing to offer generous financial terms. From small beginnings in Glasgow, plans were hatched to create a national chain of 35 outlets. Then came the recession. Jane Wainwright's searching film follows the tale as it unfolds, from initial optimism, to collapse, an angry creditors' meeting and a rescue plan which in turn goes sour. At least nobody tries to blame anyone but themselves.

**Under the Sun: The Tenth Dancer**  
 BBC2, 9.30pm

One of the by-products of the Pol Pot genocide in Cambodia, the wholesale slaughter of the country's performing artists, because of a connection with the royal court, which went back centuries, dancers were a particular target. Only one in ten survived. Australian film-maker Sally Ington focuses on two of them, a ballet teacher, En Theay, and her former student, Sok Chien. Now a grandmother, En Theay had 18 children of whom only five are still alive. Since the end of the Pol Pot regime she has helped to rebuild the national dance company and is seen preparing them for the traditional new year celebrations. Their costumes used to be covered in real jewels. Now they have to make do with plastic sequins. Peter Waymark

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THURSDAY MAY 20 1993

Hick's 85 provides Dexter with consolation for Texaco Trophy defeat

## Australia draw first one-day blood

BY ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

OLD TRAFFORD (England won toss): Australia beat England by four runs

TED Dexter was watching yesterday's Texaco Trophy launch on television from his hospital bed and his recovery from back surgery will not have been aided, much less his blood pressure. The England chairman saw his side try its best to surrender the game with the ball and then, against mounting odds, contrive to do so with the bat.

Dexter's riposte to all criticism of England's winter failings was that we had at least witnessed the coming of Graeme Hick. He will have been cheered by vindication for his faith, as Hick's assured 85 almost put this game beyond Australia's reach.

But when Hick fell, 65 were still needed from 11 overs and England's last five wickets found the task beyond them. Graham Thorpe played heroically for 31, on his debut, but the final over began with seven still needed and the last pair managed only two.

It had been an undistinguished affair, littered with unforced errors of a type to attract scorn on a village green, until Hick and Neil Fairbrother came together.

Australia should have made 300 against some wayward England bowling. Instead, they collapsed after lunch from 168 for one to 258 for nine, surely not enough on an impeccable pitch. Yet it began to look like comprehensive insurance against defeat as England lost Gooch, Stewart and Smith inside 11 overs.

The capacity crowd fell silent only until Fairbrother, the local hero, appeared at the top of the pavilion steps. They had come fearing he would miss the game through injury but now, they cheered his every move during a stand of 127 in 17 overs with Hick.

The priority of limited-overs cricket is, of course, to entertain by excitement rather than to absorb through excellence. As such, the live and screen audiences may feel they had good value, but there are plenty of players, on both sides, who will be glad of the fact that these games do not live long in the memory.

England entered the match with conflicting statistics. They had won seven of their last eight internationals at home, but lost their last four overseas. Gooch won the toss and



Early strike: McDermott raises his arm in triumph after claiming the wicket of Gooch, the England captain, for four in his second over. McDermott took 3-38

favouring the run chase. He

may soon have regretted it. The Australians, apparently unable to decide between Taylor and Hayden as Mark Waugh's opening partner, played them both, Waugh dropping to three and Martyn missing out. On the theory that the best opening pairs form a contrast, the two pugnacious left-handers have nothing going for them but, after a tentative start against Caddick, bowling well within himself on his debut, and Pringle, they cut loose.

Hayden was out unworthily, chasing a wide one from Lewis, but by lunch both Taylor and Waugh were past 50, the power of Taylor's pull matched by the poise of Waugh's on-drive. Eleven wickets for Jarvis and Illingworth had cost 69 and

the fielding had become

ragged. The change came quickly but had more to do with Australian generosity than English merit. In rapid succession, Waugh, Boon and Taylor were all caught by an increasingly disbelieving Fairbrother. Border followed to a catch by Lewis, standing in Fairbrother's place at square-leg while he was briefly off the field.

Four wickets had been lost for 18 runs in seven overs. All of them had come through careless strokes against balls of no obvious threat. Illingworth's day was transformed and from the prospect of nought for plenty he found himself with three for six in one 19-ball spell of eccentricity.

Even with 72 salvaged from

the last ten overs, Australia's

total looked vulnerable, the more so when Craig McDermott's first ball of the England reply produced four leg-side wides. But McDermott, perhaps stung by his captain's assertion that he is "off the boil", then removed Gooch with the best ball of the match and Smith with an instinctive return catch. Stewart dragged on a wide one from Hughes and England were in the mire.

Hick has gained immeasurably in confidence from his success on tour, not to mention his century against the Australians at Worcester. Fairbrother is always the arch-improviser. They have raised potentially before now and, as long as they were together, England were clear favourites. As soon as they were divided, so the balance shifted.

AUSTRALIA					ENGLAND				
	Runs	Wickets	Over	Rate		Runs	Wickets	Over	Rate
M L Hayden c Stewart b Lewis	29	4	61	55	G A Gooch c M E Waugh b McDermott	22	0	27	20
M A Taylor c Fairbrother b Illingworth	79	6	162	126	A J Stewart b Hughes	22	0	27	20
M E Waugh c Fairbrother b Jarvis	58	5	73	63	R A Smith c McDermott	9	0	37	26
O C Boon c Fairbrother b Illingworth	2	4	9		G A Hick b Pringle	85	1	84	102
A R Border c Lewis b Illingworth	4	20	14		N H Fairbrother c Pringle b S R Waugh	69	1	102	89
G R Hughes c Lewis b Lewis	27	4	42	30	S R Waugh c Taylor b McDermott	31	3	65	38
T A Healy c Thorpe b Caddick	20	3	20	21	G C Lewis run out (S R Waugh)	4	4	13	12
S R Waugh c McDermott b Caddick	20	1	23	13	D R Pringle c Taylor b S R Waugh	6	1	11	10
M G Hughes b Lewis	20	1	23	13	R K Illingworth run out	12	1	14	25
P R Stirling run out (Stewart)	2	6	3		M E Waugh c Taylor b S R Waugh	2	2	7	4
G J McDermott not out	3	3	2		S R Waugh c Taylor b S R Waugh	1	1	6	4
T B A May not out	1	1	1		A R Caddick not out	1	1	6	4
Extras (b 1, lb 8, w 8, nb 4)	15				Extras (b 0, w 8, nb 2)	10			
Total (6 wkts, 216 mts, 65 overs)	258				Total (65 overs)	254			
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-60 (Taylor 29, 2-106 (Taylor 73, 3-171 (Taylor 74, 4-178 (Border 2, 5-189 (S Waugh 5, 6-218 (S Waugh 10), 7-227 (Hughes 6), 8-234 (Hughes 20), 9-235 (McDermott 3), 10-237 (Caddick 11-1-20-1 (w, nb) 6-1-20-3, 3-0-11-0, 2-0-12-1; Pringle 10-3-30-0 (nb) 7-3-11-0, 2-0-9-0, 1-0-16-0; Lewis 1-1-0-0 (nb) 5-1-0-0-0; Jarvis 11-4-25-1 (nb) 5-0-38-0, 5-0-15-1; Illingworth 11-0-0-0 (one spot); Hick 1-0-0-0 (w).					FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11 (Stewart 1), 2-36 (Smith 4), 3-44 (Hick 1), 4-171 (Hick 67), 5-184 (Thorpe 5), 6-211 (Thorpe 17), 7-227 (Thorpe 23), 8-240 (Illingworth 7), 9-247 (Illingworth 11).				
BOWLING: McDermott 11-2-38-3 (7-2-23-2, 4-0-15-1) (nb, w); Hughes 8-1-40-1 (6-1-20-1, 3-0-19-0); May 11-2-40-0 (one spot); Pringle 11-0-0-0 (nb); Caddick 11-0-0-0 (nb); M E Waugh 2-0-12-0 (one spot); S R Waugh 10-0-35-5 (one spot) (nb, w).									

Matthews  
beats  
Bates on  
day of  
surprises

JEREMY Bates, the British tennis No 1, playing for the David Lloyd Club, Raynes Park, was beaten 6-2, 6-1 in 65 minutes by the British No 14, Lawrence Matthews, playing for Winchester, in the Everest National Club League premier division match at the Raynes Park club yesterday.

Bates lost seven games in a row and, to add insult to injury, was given a code violation for racket abuse before succumbing 6-1 in the second set.

Bates recovered his composure to win his doubles match, which helped the Raynes Park club to draw the match 3-3 and win it on countback 7-6.

In another upset, Valde Lake, playing for Edgworth Priory, beat Shirley Ann Siddall 6-2, 6-3, but could not prevent the Birmingham club losing on countback, 7-6, to Banbury West End.

Andrés Gómez, the former French Open champion, has decided to retire from professional tennis, ending a career that has earned him more than \$4 million in prize-money. Gómez, 33, announced his decision at a news conference on Tuesday in his home town of Guayaquil, the largest city in Ecuador and its principal port.

"After 15 years as a professional and eight years as an amateur I have decided to retire from competition in the Davis Cup and the Association of Professional Tennis Players," Gómez said.

He said he plans to teach in a tennis school he owns in Guayaquil and to participate in charity tournaments for players over 30. Gómez said it was "a difficult decision" but was necessary because his "mental and physical reflexes are no longer the same".

He said what he will miss most is competing in the Davis Cup before his hometown supporters. Gómez, considered one of his country's greatest players, is the only Ecuadorian to have won a grand slam singles title, the 1990 French Open at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris.

He also won the 1988 French Open men's doubles title, with Emilio Sánchez of Spain, and the 1986 United States Open doubles title with Slobodan Živojinovic. Gómez won 21 singles titles after turning professional in 1979.

## McDermott blow opens old wound for Gooch



Taylor: commanding

For all their spectacular and instant entertainment, one-day internationals are a bit like hangovers. They remind you that something happened the day before, even though the details have become a little hazy. But every now and then, amid the frothy kenosia in the opening match of the Texaco Trophy series yesterday, a drop of the hard stuff emerged. A reminder of acquaintances not forgotten and of battles yet to come.

Be it cricket or tortoiseshell racing, England v Australia has a sporting tradition all its own and, though history suggests that losing the one-day series is the key to a successful summer, by September Australia's last-gasp victory might yet be invested with greater significance

Andrew Longmore sees Australia take the initiative in one-day match and give some pointers for Ashes campaign this summer

than either captain was prepared to give it yesterday. Craig McDermott, for one, will be happy with his day's work. Struggling for fitness and form after an operation for a groin injury early in the year, the Queenslander was suitably antagonised by the sight of the old enemy in general, and Graham Gooch, in particular. Clearly, no one had told him that the result was irrelevant.

Gooch was equally aware of the moment. In the last Texaco Trophy series against Australia, he fell to Terry Alderman twice and, though

he scored 136 the second time, was so tormented by the Australian for the rest of the summer, "Gooch blew b Alderman" was pre-printed on the scorecards by the last Test.

Yesterday, McDermott drew first blood, having the England captain caught by Mark Waugh at first slip from one which bounced and straightened. Moments later, he whipped one back through Robin Smith's defences so sharply Healy had to dive full length to his left to make the stop. Hands on

hips, zinc nose glistening in the sunshine, McDermott did not have to clarify his message.

England at least began the summer aggressively, not just giving Andrew Caddick his international debut, but having the confidence to give him the first over as well. The sages felt he should not be risked so early in a long summer, but the tall New Zealand born right-armers let no one down, bowling sensibly to fine and length without unduly troubling Mark Taylor.

With Taylor well set and working his way towards what seemed an inevitable century, Caddick decided to use his 6ft 5in frame to full effect, the ball leaping from just short of a length and hitting the Australian on the

glove. He will remember that one.

Apart from a rollicking stand of 127 between Border and Little and Large, Fairbrother and Hick, which laid the foundation of England's reply, the rest was eminently forgettable. Border, certainly, will want to put Australia's lamentable middle-order collapse behind him and some uncharacteristically sloppy fielding. For the winning captain, a first notch on the belt for the loser, inconsequential defeat.

That is the way with these occasions, though a brimful Old Trafford just enjoyed the sunshine and the bonhomie and cared little for the morrow. With 514 runs and 19 wickets, there was drama enough for one day.

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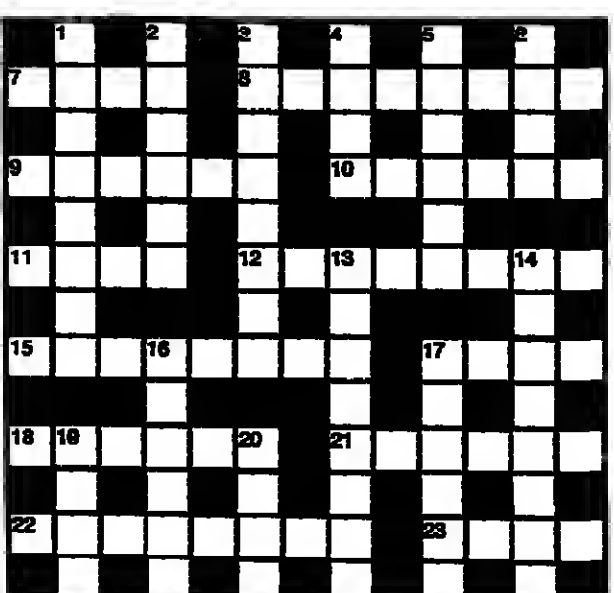
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